



Speeches through the years: **Cde. Robert Gabriel Mugabe (Feb. 21, 1924- Present)**

This publication aims to honor the words of Zimbabwean revolutionary, Black nationalist, and current President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Cde. Mugabe, by showing speeches he has made, ranging from the 1980s until the present-day.

Editor's note

This publication is inspired [by news of a recent book](#) which focuses on famous speeches of Cde. (Comrade) Mugabe titled “Distorted History: Robert Mugabe The Man” by a female author, named Masline Manhanga, who was born in the Marondera region of Zimbabwe. In her book, which will hopefully be published before February 21, presented to Cde. Mugabe himself, she aims to focus on “selected speeches by President Mugabe over the years and seeks to explore how Europeans have distorted African history” as noted by the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation.

This publication includes some speeches from Cde. Mugabe's time as a Marxist Zanu (Zimbabwe African National Union) revolutionary in the liberation war against the white settler-colonialist government (and the British), time Prime Minister, from 1980-1987, and his time as President from 1987 to the present, as part of the Zanu-PF (Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front), the latter which was formed in 1987 as a combination of the pro-Soviet Zapu (Zimbabwe African People's Union) and Zanu. As a result, some of the speeches where Cde. Mugabe was arguably forced into a neo-colonial position, in part by the Lancaster House Agreement in 1979, by supposed radical leaders of Mozambique and Tanzania who refused to house his troops for the final phase of the liberation war, the former who told Mugabe to work to avoid “white capital flight,” the influence of the revisionist People's Republic of China, and specter of an apartheid government in South Africa, making him the [toast of Europeans](#). This reality is recognized by comrade Stephen Gowans and deluded anti-Mugabe critic Patrick Bond. Still, Cde. Mugabe never lost the desire to do the best for the people of Zimbabwe.

It is worth remembering that by 1996, Cde. Mugabe and the Zanu-PF party was beginning to reject the chains of neo-colonialism by not following through on the IMF structural adjustment plan and by 1998 these chains had fully been broken by the beginning of what would become a more developed land redistribution program, along with support of Laurent Kabila's new government in the Democratic Republic of the Congo against Rwandan and Ugandan forces backed by Britain and the United States. Any errors during the pre-1996 period have been rectified in the time afterwards by black nationalist and people-oriented policies which opposed the Washington consensus of neoliberal destruction across the world. Since 1996, at least, Western capitalist states have been at war with the Republic of Zimbabwe not only with harsh economic sanctions, leading to economic despair, but by engaging in a “human rights” offensive by dubbing Cde. Mugabe a “dictator” with an “authoritarian” government. Such claims are only helped by “human rights” imperialist organizations like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Human Rights First, to name a few. The Western-backed opposition of ZimPF (Zimbabwe People First) and MDC-T (Movement of Democratic Change-Tsvangarai), among other groups, has a role as they are puppets of capitalist powers to destabilize the revolutionary state of Zimbabwe. As it stands now, the conflict between the black nationalist, people-oriented, pro-business, and socially progressive Zanu-PF, which controls the state apparatus, and the opposition, which wants to bring in neo-colonialism, allowing gleeful Western capitalists to again loot the country.

This publication, which a careful selection of numerous speeches, tries to show the relevance of Cde. Mugabe to current struggles for racial justice and anti-imperialism across the world. It is my hope that this publication helps in this endeavor and inspires such struggles.

Best regards,
Comrade-in-arms, [LeftistCritic](#)

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Speech to First Zimbabwe Women's Seminar in May 1979

(this opening speech for the meeting is courtesy of the [Freedom Archives](#))

I wish to greet you all in the name of the Central Committee of ZANU, in the name of our National Liberation Army (ZANLA) and in the name of the seven million struggling and oppressed masses of Zimbabwe. You are happily gathered here today in response to the call by the Party, through its department of Women's Affairs, to hold a very important Seminar, and historic meeting convened with three definite objectives.

The first is for you to study, analyse and assess the role of women in the national struggle and in the effort to develop a socialist society in our country.

The second objective is to assist our Central Committee in organising and shaping the Department of Women's Affairs in both form and content so that we have a viable, intact, and effective women's organ capable of serving as an instrument for education and mobilising women alongside their men-folk both in the performance of revolutionary tasks and in achieving equality, dignity and respect.

The third is to work out a practical programme for women including set tasks for accomplishment this year in accordance with the overall Party programme and its general tasks. The role our women should play today in the bitter struggle against imperialism and colonialism is determined by the degree of their freedom, readiness and commitment to play that role. Custom and tradition have tended more to favour men than women, to promote men and their status and demote women in their status, to erect men as masters of the home, village, clan and nation, but pin down women as mistresses of the same

home, village, clan and nation. Admittedly, women have even in the context of the family, village, clan and nation, been allowed sometimes a significant, but at other times a deplorably insignificant, role to play. The general principle governing relationships between men and women has, in our traditional society, always been that of superiors and inferiors. Our society has consistently stood on the principle of masculine dominance – the principle that the man is the ruler and the woman his dependant and subject.

Thanks to education and enlightenment, some change in the attitude of men and women has occurred. Thanks also to the equalising effect of the oppressive racist settler system, cruel, exploitative and suppressive to both sexes alike, men and women have jointly shared a common deprivation, and so a common grievance, formed a common war-front and built a common fighting force against a common enemy – the colonial settler regime. Thanks further still to other nations' experiences and their influence upon us, there is now a growing opinion in our society in favour of the emancipation of women.

It is necessary, therefore, to study the role of the Zimbabwe women both generally in society and specifically in the context of the national struggle against white settler colonialism, with a view to ascertaining the degree of her participation and the extent to which the structures of tradition and custom have yielded to new circumstances, the law of necessity and the call for cultural transformation in her favour.

Pre-colonial Status of Women

Before the forcible occupation of our country by the British settler column in 1890, tradition and customs, whether it was Shona or Ndebele recognised a patriarchal society. The Head of the family was the man. He it was and not the woman who have "his blood" to the children all of whom became known after him and naturally belonged to his clan adopting both his *mutupo* (totem) and *chidawo* (praise totem). The woman continued to maintain her clan and blood ties with her own family and never lost her *mutupo* although she might have lost her *chidawo*. She was thus regarded a stranger to the man's family – *mwana wevaridzi*. The child born of her, despite the nine months he spent in her womb, was never hers by customary right of ownership; he remained her child only as long as the marriage between her and husband was good.

Even when the marriage was good, the man, when angry with her over her handling of children or in any other provocative circumstances, would chide her for 'mishandling', 'spoiling' or 'neglecting' "his children". The wife too when fed up with the husband not infrequently appealed to him to take "his children" and allow her to go to "her home."

A woman became a man's wife upon payment by the man to the woman's family of dowry. In Shona and Ndebele society this was partly monetary, but principally, in the form of cattle. Customary law never regarded dowry as a price paid for the woman but more as a token of gratitude from the man's family to the woman's family. The payment of the dowry entitled the man to marry the woman, bring her to his home and demand her domestic and agricultural field services. In every case no woman could marry without parental consent.

Society being patriarchal, women were not allowed to sit at court to hear cases, although they were allowed to become witness. Family property could only be owned by men, save the case of domestic

utensils, personal gifts or direct bequests. Women could, however, personally acquire property, although kinds of personal labour or as share of dowry paid for the daughter.

Men practised polygamy, but no polyandry was conceivable in both Shona and Ndebele societies. The moral uprightness demanded of women was most exacting. They had to be virgins before marriage, otherwise some compensation to console the 'unfortunate' man who married a non-virgin was always payable by the wife's family who would exact it from the woman's sexual violator.

All in all, the woman's position was despicable. But there were definite recognisable features of an area of her limited dominance. She was the midwife. She shared with men the rare phenomenon of being a spirit medium. She also could inherit a parent or ancestor, or acquire through association and tutorship, knowledge of indigenous herbs and potents or the power of divining. She could in a similar way become a much dreaded witch.

Within the family, she had a strong hold over the girls whom she brought up her own way, in most cases to become as good mothers and housewives as she herself. Thus, while all sons pursued the father's or grandfather's masculine line towards manhood and marriage, all the daughters in the family followed the feminine path to womanhood and marriage. Certain activities were common, such as working in the crop fields, herding cattle (though principally a boy's function) and collecting firewood.

Wars were naturally fought by men but women provided all the necessary food from the rear, while they took care of the property in the absence of the men. It was never conceived that they could go to the front and, alongside men attack the enemy with spears, battle-axes or bows and arrows. This was the traditional position before European settlement in 1890. The woman's role in society was mainly supplementary to that of the man.

Settler colonialism and its impact

The instrument employed by Cecil John Rhodes and the British Government of the day in acquiring our country was a company granted a charter for occupational purposes. The British South African company was formed and sponsored by colonialist Rhodes in its operation of 1890 when it hoisted a British flag in Harare calling it Fort Salisbury. The colonial venture revulsed and angered our entire nation. First, the Ndebele a segment of the Zulus who had come to Zimbabwe under Umzilikazi and had settled in the western region around Bulawayo, organized a War of Resistance against European occupation in 1893 but suffered defeat. However, in 1896-1897, followed a more national liberation war, Chimurenga I, which was led by Mkwati, Nehanda and Kaguvi, while such chiefly heroes and regional commanders like Mashayamombe and Makoni participated in it with remarkable bravery and honour. Our people were defeated because of the superiority of British weapons and all the leaders got martyred.

In the war necessitated by the forcible seizure of our fatherland, we notice for the first time a woman hero as the spirit medium of the rising to the occasion inspiring, directing, commanding and leading men in battle against the enemy. Nehanda Nyakasikana, appears in our war annals of post-colonial Zimbabwe as the first war heroine and martyr. She did not lead just a battalion or regional army but a national army in national struggle for the overthrow of Company rule and recovery of the fatherland. She was defiant and obdurate to the end, refusing to compromise and subject herself to a process

exacting her penitence for a just Liberation War she had proudly, valiantly and justifiably fought but lost.

Nehanda was obviously a distinct and exceptional character who rose to revolutionary ascendancy, not by mere display of leadership qualities such as her command, courage, bravery and planning ability, but by principally her spiritual power as a spirit medium. Our society has always feared and respected women possessed with spirits or medicinal power. They strike the men with awe and invoke in them a subservience that no doubt contradicts their general traditional attitude to women. It is in those rare circumstances that our women have sometimes commanded men. It was indeed in those circumstances that Nehanda was able to demonstrate her powers and to command the respect of men.

After conquest, however, many spirit mediums were hounded, persecuted, and suppressed. Many went underground and began operating only in a limited capacity. At the same time as spirit mediums were being persecuted, the Chiefs and Headmen who had been involved in the joint planning of the national war strategy were either put to death, demoted or kept under strict surveillance.

A general intimidation campaign was waged throughout the country by the British South African Company security forces, property being destroyed or confiscated, women being raped and men being whipped, tortured or incarcerated.

Men and women were therefore equally ill-treated by the enemy thus attaining equality in their suffering of indignities.

With the establishment of large individual farms and the development of town and mining centres, traditional life suffered a social disturbance as men, partially under compulsion supplied the cheap labour that was needed there. Women

[pages 4 and 5 of the speech are not available in the Freedom Archives document, next section comes from page 6]

[Women carrying war material to it from the rear, but they also fight on the front and become exposed to the enemy's bullets in the same way as men. Our women have scored numerous victories alongside the men. They have demonstrated beyond all doubt that they are as capable as men and deserve equal treatment, both in regard to training and appointments.

It is because of their proven performance that we have agreed to constitute a Women's Detachment with its own commander who should become a member of the High Command. It is also necessary, I feel, that at this very advanced stage of our armed struggle we should promote more women to the High Command. We are gratified that we have a large number of women officers at the General Staff level. As our ZANLA grows, the number of women officers is also bound to increase. This is certainly development and transformation, which naturally must be preceded by the transformation of the individual.

Let us examine briefly the spread of women over the echelons of the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army [ZANLA] and examine the distribution of their functions and the tasks they perform. Although in the High Command there is only one woman, Comrade Sheba Tavarwisa, who is also Deputy Secretary of Education and Culture in the Central Committee, in the General Staff, there are

now scores of women officers, while in the Army generally several thousands of women cadres gallantly serve in one role or another.

In the various operational departments of ZANLA, our women cadres can be found daily performing set tasks. We find them in the Department of Operation, in the Army Commissariat, in the Logistics and Supplies Department, in the Department of Security and Intelligence as officers and cadres, in the Department of Training as instructors, in the Department of Personnel, Production and Construction, Medical Service, Education and Culture, Welfare and Transport. In the Medical and Educational Department, women nursing cadres and teachers are performing wonderful work. I am sure, when the representatives of the Departments here give you a brief account of their work, you will readily appreciate some of the good work that has been taking place.

Let me just single out the Commissariat work that is taking place in the Operational Areas, especially in the Liberated Zones. We have sent into the country teams of women cadres to carry out in several areas political work amongst our people. They talk to fathers, mothers, boys and girls, and the response had been wonderful all over. The woman cadres, like her male counterpart, is everywhere she goes, a fighter, a political activist, and a producer. Every ZANLA cadre carries three weapons:

- The gun to fight the enemy with and defend the masses
- Politics to give the direction and purpose of the struggle
- The hoe for production, so we can eat, be health and be able to fight

We shall continue to build a large women's force through intensified military and political training. It is not only our belief but is indeed now Party Policy to develop our women not only politically and militarily, but also technically and professionally so that we prepare ourselves fully for the War as well as for the struggle after victory. In this regard, the needed that are felt most amongst women in terms of their advancement should manifest themselves in their particular forms through various Party Departments, but generally and more earnestly and in a co-ordinated form through the Department of Women's Affairs. This brings us to the subject of this Department in the context of Party Organisation.

The Party Organisation and Women

When Zanu was formed in August 1963, it recognised clearly the fundamental role of the woman as an activist alongside her male counterpart in the Party. That is why provision was made in our Constitution for the creation of the ZANU WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

ZANU Women's League:

This is a women's organisation which is also a component of the Party. It builds itself upwards from the Branch level to the District, Provincial and National levels. The executive committees of the Women's League shall at every level comprise the same number of people as those of the Main Body at a corresponding level. At the *Branch* level of the Women's League there shall be the following officebearers: Branch Vice Chairman, Branch Secretary, Branch Treasurer, Branch Organising Secretary and Branch Publicity Secretary. The District Council of the Women's League shall have the same number of office-holders as those stated above.

The Provincial Council of the Women's League shall have the following officers: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Administrative Secretary, Organising Secretary and Publicity Secretary.

The National Executive Committee of the Women's League is elected by Provincial delegates at the Inter-Provincial Women's League Conference. The Executive Committee comprises the following persons: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Administrative Secretary, Financial Secretary, Organising Secretary and Publicity Secretary.

Because of modifications in our pattern of organisation resulting from the experience we have gained over the years, there are bound to be qualitative changes in the old structure. We now have, for example a Political Commissar at every level of the Organisation and this function would be reflected in all the executive committees.

During the period 1963 – 1964, before the Party was proscribed, it never became possible for us to constitute the Women's League and Youth League. We must begin working towards it now, although it is not practically yet to establish a full Women's League.

The Women's League is, at every level subordinate to the corresponding main organ of the Party. The Women's League Branch to the Main Branch, the Women's League District Provincial Branch to the Main Provincial Branch, and finally the National Executive of the Women's League comes under the Party's National Executive Committee, falling directly under the Department of Women's Affairs. But what is the composition and structure of the Department of Women's Affairs?

Department of Women's Affairs

The Head of the Department of Women's Affairs is the Secretary for Women's Affairs, elected by Congress, or in the absence of Congress, elected by the Central Committee. Under her is the Deputy Secretary for Women's Affairs elected by the Congress of the Women's League. At the moment the Central Committee has elected Comrade Teurai Ropa as the Secretary for Women's Affairs. This meeting would, therefore, have to elect one for approval by the Central Committee.

We have proposed that there be an Administrator for Women's Affairs who would work under the Deputy Secretary for Women's Affairs. The functions of the Women's Affairs Department are three:

- Political
- Military
- Diplomatic (External Relations)

There must, therefore, be three wings:

- The Political Wing
- The Military Wing
- The External Relations Wing

Each wing should be headed by a Secretary. The three Secretaries are directed by the Administrator. As much as possible this meeting must help us to complete this structure. The Administrator and three Secretaries will be finally appointed by the Central Committee, but this meeting can, through the

Secretary for Women's Affairs, make nominations which the Central Committee will be free to approve or reject.

- The Secretary for the Political Wing shall concern herself with the organisation and functioning of the Women's League and shall therefore report to the Department of Women's Affairs on the activities of the League as well as carry Departmental instructions to the League.
- The Secretary for the Military Wing, who shall also be the Commander of the Women's Detachment, shall concern herself with the organisation and functioning of the Women's Detachment and shall regularly report on the activities of the Detachment to the Department of Women's Affairs as well as carry Departmental instructions to the Detachment.
- The Secretary for External Women's Organisations shall establish and maintain contact with external Women's Organisations and regularly report on relations with them or on their important activities, to the Department.

We are determined that the Department of Women's Affairs shall be a well-defined viable entity of the Party's organic structure.

The role of Women in Socialist Countries

Women in both socialist and non-socialist countries have participated in the struggle for their emancipation. As a Liberation Movement with socialist programme we are particularly interested in the role and position of women in Socialist countries, so we can, by comparison, judge our progress or lack of progress in the process for the advancement of our own women.

The Soviet Union

Lenin, the brain and hero behind the application of Marxist-Leninist principles in the Soviet Union, held extremely progressive views about women. He wrote in his *Works*:

"If women are not drawn into public service, into militia, into political life, women are not torn out of their stupefying house and kitchen environment, it will be impossible to build even democracy, let alone socialism." (*Coll. W. Pr. Publ., Vol. 23, p. 23, 1964*)

Today women in the Soviet Union comprise 51% of the entire labour force. The law, of course, forbids employment of women in difficult and harmful forms of work.

The People's Republic of China

Mao Tse-Tung, the greatest exponent of Marxism-Leninism after Lenin and Stalin, who was the brain and hero behind China's revolutionary struggle, condemned the system under which Chinese women were. He says in his *Works*:

"As for women, in addition to being dominated these three systems (The state system, the clan system and the supernatural system) they are also dominated by the men and (which) are four thick ropes binding the Chinese people particularly the peasants."

Mao Tse-Tung: *Selected Works*, Volume 1 Foreign Language Press Peking, 1975, page 44

It is Chairman Mao who also said:

“When women all over the Country rise up, that will be the day of the victory of the Chinese revolution.”

Last year, in September, the women of China held their Fourth National Women’s Congress which gave a new impetus for women’s full participation in the socialist revolution and construction. Mao had foreseen that the abolition of “the clan system, superstition, and inequality between men and women” would follow “as a natural consequence of victory in the political and economic struggle.” (*Selected Works, Vol. 1 page 47*).

The Socialist Republic of Romania

The achievement of socialism in Romania resulted in the creation of conditions in which women were accorded full equal rights and enabled to participate to the best of their ability in all domains of activity. Women account for more than half of the country’s population. The leading body of the women’s movement is the *Women’s National Council* elected by the National Conference. The Romanian Communist Party attaches great importance to women’s capability and is greatly concerned about their role in the entire economic life.

When we visited Romania in November last year with Comrade Teurai Ropa, we held a meeting with a delegation of the Trade Union Confederation which included Cornelia Filips who, in addition to being the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Confederation, is also the Vice President of the National Council of Women [NCW]. We arranged for Comrade Teurai later to meet leaders of the NCW.

We also went to a textile factory, one of the largest in Europe in which more than four-fifths of the workers are women who are highly skilled. Generally there is serious attention paid to the promotion of women in society in all its fields of activity.

The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The Women in Yugoslavia having participated in the resistance struggle against fascism and nazism during the second world war and, alongside their menfolk, defeated the enemy, paved a way to their emancipation in society. Now, the Constitution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, like the constitutions of many other socialist countries, protects their right of equality. Section 154 of that Constitution provides:

“Citizens shall be equal in their rights and duties regardless of nationality, race, sex, language, religions, education or social status, all shall be equal before the law.”

But the Yugoslav women are not only equal with men before the law, they are also equal with them in the political and socio-economic system thus enjoying the same rights and privileges and bearing equal duties and responsibilities.

The Republic of Cuba

President Fidel Castro, the valiant fighter who led the Cuban Revolution, states, in the *Report of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba to the First Congress* that the Cuban women tradition of struggle can be traced back to the days of cruelty of the conquerors and – the whip of the slave-holders. – The Participation of the Cuban woman continued to increase as the situation demanded. The women finally created their own organisation on August 23, 1960 and this is the Federation of Cuban Women (FCW), which united all existing women’s revolutionary organisations.

The Federation now has 2,127,000 women workers, peasants, students, housewives, professionals and others. The Federation of Cuban Women has striven hard to enhance the dignity and advance the social and human emancipation of Cuban women. Already much work has been undertaken to eradicate remaining prejudices against women and to achieve their full equality and liberation. This was also the objective of the FCW’s Second Congress held in November, 1974.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh, the illustrious leader of the Vietnamese liberation struggle once said, “If the women are not emancipated, socialism is only half-established.”

The women of Vietnam fought a heroic struggle against American imperialism, bringing down United States aircraft, capturing U.S. pilots, setting U.S. warships ablaze, and bravely protecting their villages.

One of the present leaders of Vietnam, Le Duan, has written as follows in his *Selected Writings* describing the Vietnamese concept of a new woman: “(She is) one who carries out well her duty as a socialist citizen. One who fulfills satisfactorily her noble function as the wife in the family. As a matter of fact, in every society a woman is a citizen, mother and wife.” (Foreign Languages Publishing House, Hanoi, 1977, p. 381).

The People’s Democratic Republic of Korea

The Great Korean leader, Comrade Kim Il Sung, recalled in his “Address to the Communist Workers of the Women’s Union scheduled to attend the First Conference of the Democratic Women’s Union of North Korea” in 1964, that for ages in the past the Korean women were despised socially and in their homes because of the old feudal idea of respecting the man and despising the woman. Women had no freedom of marriage and were not allowed to leave their homes at will. They were even sold as chattels.

Kim Il Sung advocates some measures for purposes of organising and advancing women such as the following:

- Casting aside backward customs and habits handed down from old society.
- Intensify education among women so as to increase their political awareness and grasp of knowledge.
- Intensify enlightenment work so as to wipe out superstition.
- Mothers should be fitted to play an important part in the education of their children.
- There should be an intensive campaign to wipe out illiteracy among women.
- Women workers must be encouraged to participate actively in nation-building.

- There should be provided equal rights between men and women and the utmost care of women because they are physically weaker than men. Women workers should be granted maternity leave and get paid 100 per cent of their salaries.
- Women cannot get their rights as gifts. They themselves should actively fight for them.
- Women intellectuals be mobilised properly for national work. Our women intellectuals can do a good deal to eliminate illiteracy and promote cultural enlightenment. They can work in many fields including education, culture and public health.
- The Women's Union would do well to organise and run many small-scale nurseries and kindergartens.

Kim Il Sung: *On the building of the workers's Party of Korea*, Vol. I, Foreign Languages, Publishing House, Pyongyang, 1977, p. 169 to 181.

In Africa.

Socialist States like Tanzania, Guinea, Mocambique [Mozambique], Angola, Ethiopia and Guinea Bissau, have all encouraged and organised women's organisations which promote both the full and active participation of women in the diverse activities of the State and the emancipation of the women towards equality with men.

In Mocambique, there is O.M.M. (Organisation of Mocambican Women). At the first Conference of Mocambican Women held in 1973, President Samora Machel in his Opening Speech stressed the main theme of the Conference as

"To study questions concerning the emancipation of women, to find lines of action which will lead to the emancipation."

President Machel deplored the status of women whom he regarded as:

"The most oppressed, humiliated and exploited beings in society. A woman is even exploited by man who himself is exploited, beaten by the man who is lacerated by the palmatoria, humiliated by the man who is crushed under the boot of the boss and settler."

He emphasized the need for emancipation of women as a fundamental necessity for the Revolution.

(Samora Machel: *Mocambique, Sewing the Seeds of Revolution*, Committee for Freedom in Mocambique, Angola and Guinea, London, 1974, p. 21 – 24).

Today in liberated Mocambique, the O.M.M. is working vigorously for the advancement of women in all the spheres of life.

Conclusion

I tried to give you the nature of the problem facing us today regarding the status of the Woman against the background of circumstances which have enhanced her role. The colonial system which was superimposed upon the traditional system created for the woman two levels of oppression – that of traditional society as the first level and that of the political and socio-economic system suffered by both the man and the woman as the second level. I tried also to show that the grievances generated by the

colonial system were shared by all members of the African community. Hence the need that arose for men and women together as equals under oppression to join hands in the common struggle for national liberation. The national struggle, therefore, especially at its higher level, when it became armed national struggle, became as much a process towards the liberation of the nation towards the emancipation of the woman.

The Party has, by waging armed struggle, created, therefore, a process generative of forces that will result in the total liberation of the woman. But the Party has also a specific and distinct organic structure to ensure the full enrollment of women and their active participation in a struggle in which they alone will reap a double reward – national liberation and, in its context, their own liberation.

It is thus imperative that this meeting should take definite decisions relating to:

- The maximisation of women's involvement in the liberation struggle in the general following the Party line and direction.
- Maximum recruitment of women with all kinds of potential into the Party as both military and political cadres.
- The formulation of a definite programme with specific tasks for fulfillment by the Women's Affairs Department, bearing in mind the eleven tasks for this *Year of the People's Storm* (Gore re Gukurahundi).
- The compelling need to study the needs of each and every woman cadre in ZANLA so as to assess the kind of assistance the Party can give towards her intellectual and technical advancement.
- The organisation of the units of the Political Wing of the Party and the Women's Detachment and the fighting of divisive tendencies and narrow concepts.
- The organisation of a programme of establishing contact and sound relations with progressive women's organisations in other countries.
- The intensification of women's political, educational, medical, productive and other functions in liberated and semi-liberated areas.
- The formulation of a programme for the promotion and maintenance of the moral and cultural integrity and respect of the Zimbabwe woman.
- A survey of customary law practice and tradition with a view to the modification of those aspects which inhibit the emancipation of woman.
- The expected role of the male cadres and Party militants in working alongside the women cadres and Party militants for the progress towards emancipation and advance of the woman

I have the pleasure of now declaring this meeting open and wish you well in your deliberations. I hope this meeting will be a great experience to all of you and ourselves. We have to achieve progress here so we can be in step with the military advances and victories accruing to us every day. Thank you.

First speech as Prime Minister in March 1980

(the text of this speech is transcribed from [this website](#))

Greetings in the name of freedom.

My I thank you most heartily for your votes and support.

I feel overwhelmed as at the same time I feel humbled.

I wish to address you tonight on the significance of the election victory you awarded my Party, ZANU (PF). In doing so, I would like to thank all those who, either by their direct vote as our supporters or by their efficient campaigning as our organisers, have contributed to this favourable result. In addition, may I also thank all officials who participated in the mechanical exercise of handling the elections, without whose organisational and administrative efforts the whole election process would have been a failure.

Soon a new government will come into being and lead our country to independence. In constituting this government my main concern, and that of the party, is to create an instrument capable of achieving peace and stability as it strives to bring about progress.

Peace and stability can only be achieved if all of us, first as individuals and secondly as part of the whole Zimbabwean national community, feel a definite sense of individual security on the one hand and have an assurance of national peace and security on the other.

It must be realised, however, that a state of peace and security can only be achieved by our determination, all of us, to be bound by the explicit requirements of peace contained in the Lancaster House Agreement, which express the general desire of the people of Zimbabwe.

In this regard, I wish to assure you that there can never be any return to the state of armed conflict which existed before our commitment to peace and the democratic process of election under the Lancaster House Agreement.

Surely this is the time to beat our swords into ploughshares so that we can attend to the problems of developing our economy and our society.

My party recognizes the fundamental principle of that in constituting a government it is necessary to be guided by the national interest rather than by strictly party considerations. Accordingly, I am holding consultations with the leader of the ZAPU (PF), Comrade Joshua Nkomo, so we can enter into a coalition. What I envisage, however, is a coalition which, in the interests of reconciliation, can include, by co-option, members of other communities whom the Constitution has denied the right of featuring as our candidates by virtue of their being given parliamentary representation. We should certainly work to achieve a national front.

Whatever government I succeed in creating will certainly adhere to the letter and spirit of our Constitution, since the government will itself have been the product of such Constitution.

Only a government that subjects itself to the rule of law has any moral right to demand its citizens obedience to the rule of law.

Our Constitution equally circumscribes the powers of the government by declaring certain rights and freedoms fundamental. We intend to uphold these fundamental rights and freedoms to the full.

Similarly, it is not our intention to interfere with pension rights and other accrued benefits of the civil servants. I may mention here that I have now held discussions with chiefs of Joint Operations Command, as well as heads of Ministries, and all of them have given me the assurance of their preparedness to work under my government. I, in turn, assured them of our concern about their position and the position of the civil servants.

We have assured them that it is not the intention of our government, when it comes into being, to deprive the civil servants of their pension rights and accrued benefits; nor do we want anybody out of the country; nor do we intend to interfere unconstitutionally with the property rights of individuals.

I urge you, whether you are black or white, to join me in a new pledge to forget our grim past, forgive and forget, join hands in a new amity, and together as Zimbabweans, trample upon racialism, tribalism and regionalism, and work to reconstruct and rehabilitate our society as we reinvigorate our economic machinery.

The need for peace demands that our forces be integrated as soon as possible so that we can emerge with a single national army. Accordingly, I shall authorise General Walls, working in conjunction with the ZANLA and ZPRA commanders, to preside over the integration process. We shall also happily continue to enjoy the assistance of British military instructors.

Finally, I wish to assure all the people that my government will strive to bring meaningful change to their lives. But everyone should exercise patience, for change cannot occur overnight. For now, let us be united in our endeavor to lead the country to independence. Let us constitute a oneness derived from our common objectives and total commitment to build a great Zimbabwe that will be the pride of all Africa.

Let us deepen our sense of belonging and engender a common interest that knows no race, color, or creed. Let us truly become Zimbabweans with a single loyalty.

Long live our freedom!

Speech on the day of Zimbabwe's independence (Apr. 17, 1980)

(the text of this speech is from [this website](#) and [this website](#))

The final countdown before the launching of the new State of Zimbabwe has now begun. Only a few hours from now, Zimbabwe will have become a free, independent and sovereign state, free to choose its own flight path and chart its own course to its chosen destiny. Its people have made a democratic choice of those who as their legitimate Government, they wish to govern them and take policy decisions as to their future.

This, indeed, is the meaning of the mandate my party secured through a free and fair election, conducted in the full glare of the world's spotlight. While my Government welcomes the mandate it has been freely given and is determined to honour it to the letter, it also accepts that the fulfillment of the tasks imposed by the mandate are only possible with the confidence, goodwill and co-operation of all of you, reinforced by the forthcoming support and encouragement of all our friends, allies, and well

wishers in the international community.

The march to our national independence has been a long, arduous and hazardous one. On this march, countless lives have been lost and many sacrifices made. Death and suffering have been the prize we have been called upon to pay for the final priceless reward of freedom and national independence. May I thank all of you who have had to suffer and sacrifice for the reward we are now getting.

Tomorrow we shall be celebrating the historic event, which our people have striven for nearly a century to achieve. Our people, young and old, men and women, black and white, living and dead, are, on this occasion, being brought together in a new form of national unity that makes them all Zimbabweans. Independence will bestow on us a new personality, a new sovereignty, a new future and perspective, and indeed a new history and a new past. Tomorrow we are being born again; born again not as individuals but collectively as a people, nay, as a viable nation of Zimbabweans.

Tomorrow is thus our birthday, the birth of a great Zimbabwe, and the birth of its nation. Tomorrow we shall cease to be men and women of the past and become men and women of the future. It's tomorrow then, not yesterday, which bears our destiny. As we become a new people we are called to be constructive, progressive and forever forward looking, for we cannot afford to be men of yesterday, backward-looking, retrogressive and destructive. Our new nation requires of every one of us to be a new man, with a new mind, a new heart and a new spirit. Our new mind must have a new vision and our new hearts a new love that spurns hate, and a new spirit that must unite and not divide.

This to me is the human essence that must form the core of our political change and national independence. Henceforth, you and I must strive to adapt ourselves, intellectually and spiritually to the reality of our political change and relate to each other as brothers bound one to another by a bond of national comradeship. If yesterday I fought as an enemy, today you have become a friend and ally with the same national interest, loyalty, rights and duties as myself. If yesterday you hated me, today you cannot avoid the love that binds you to me and me to you. Is it not folly, therefore, that in these circumstances anybody should seek to revive the wounds and grievances of the past? The wrongs of the past must now stand forgiven and forgotten. If ever we look to the past, let us do so for the lesson the past has taught us, namely that oppression and racism are inequities that must never again find scope in our political and social system. It could never be a correct justification that because whites oppressed us yesterday when they had power, the blacks must oppress them today because they have power.

An evil remains an evil whether practiced by white against black or by black against white. Our majority rule could easily turn into inhuman rule if we oppressed, persecuted or harassed those who do not look or think like the majority of us. Democracy is never mob-rule. It is and should remain disciplined rule requiring compliance with the law and social rules. Our independence must thus not be construed as an instrument vesting individuals or groups with the right to harass and intimidate others into acting against their will. It is not the right to negate the freedom of others to think and act, as they desire.

I, therefore, wish to appeal to all of you to respect each other and act in promotion of national unity rather than negation of that unity. On Independence Day, our integrated security forces will, in spite of their having only recently fought each other, be marching in step together to herald the new era of national unity and togetherness.

Let this be an example of us all to follow. Indeed, let this enjoin the whole of our nation to march in perfect unison from year to year and decade to decade towards its destiny. We have abundant mineral, agricultural and human resources to exploit and develop for which we need perfect peace. Given such peace, our endeavours to transform our society and raise our standard of living are bound to succeed. The mineral resources lying beneath the surface of our country have hardly been scratched, nor have our agricultural and industrial resources yet fully harnessed. Now that we have peace, we must go fully out to exploit them. We already have a sophisticated infrastructure. Our expertise is bound to increase as more and more educational and technical institutions are established to transform our skilled manpower. The whole world is looking on us this day.

Indeed, many countries in the international community are amazed at how we have so quickly and unexpectedly moved from war to peace. We have certainly won the goodwill of many countries and can confidently expect to benefit from the economic and technical aid they are able and willing to provide for us. May I assure you that my Government is determined to bring about meaningful change to the lives of the majority of the people in the country. But I must ask you to be patient and allow my Government time to organize programmes that will effectively yield that change. There are people without land who need land, people without jobs who need jobs, children without schools who need schools and patients without hospitals who need them. We are also fully aware of the need for increased wages in all sectors of employment. My Government will certainly do its best to meet the existing needs in these areas. But you have to assist us by being patient and peaceful.

I now finally wish to appeal to you, wherever you are, to participate fully today and Saturday in the Independence celebrations that have been organized throughout the country. There are, of course, those of you who have the duty to maintain essential services. These services must indeed be maintained so that the celebrations are facilitated. Maintaining such essential services during the celebrations is a significant contribution of their success. I wish to thank Her Majesty the Queen for having sent His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales to represent her and officiate at our Independence ceremony, where he will perform the symbolic act of severing our colonial ties with Britain.

As you are aware, this historic ceremony will be witnessed by Heads of State and Government and representatives of nearly 100 countries plus representatives of several international, political and voluntary organizations. The ceremony will be also be reported and relayed to millions of people in the world by the mass media. May I enjoin you all to regard this solemn occasion with honour and dignity, and participate in the celebrations that follow it with jubilation. Let us rejoice over our independence and recognize in it the need to dedicate ourselves to national unity, peace and progress. I now wish to pay tribute to Lord Soames, our Governor, for the most important role he has played in successfully guiding this country to elections and independence. He was from the very onset given a difficult and most unenviable task. And yet he performed it with remarkable ability and overwhelming dignity.

I must admit that I was one of those who originally never trusted him, and yet I have now ended up not only implicitly trusting but fondly loving him as well. He is indeed a great man through whom it has been possible within a short period I have been Prime Minister, to organize substantial financial and technical aid from Britain and other countries. I am personally indebted to him for the advice he has constantly given me on the art of managing the affairs of Government.

I shall certainly be missing a good friend and counselor, and so will our independent Zimbabwe and all its people. I also wish to thank all our distinguished guests for the honour they have given us by coming

to attend our Independence celebrations on behalf of their countries or organizations. Their presence in our country signifies a bond of solidarity and friendship between their countries or organizations and our country. Without the support they have given us towards our liberation, this day would never have come about.

Thanks, therefore, for all the material, political, diplomatic and moral support they have given us. Sons and daughters of Zimbabwe, I urge you to participate fully and jubilantly in our Independence celebrations and to ensure that all our visitors are well entertained and treated with utmost hospitality. I shall be one in spirit and love, in loyalty and commitment with you all. Forward with the Year of the People's Power! Long live our Freedom! Long live our Sovereignty! Long live our Independence!

Address to World Summit on Sustainable Development (Sept. 3, 2002)

(the text of this speech is from [this PDF](#))

Your excellency, Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, Your Excellency, Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Majesties, Your Excellencies, Heads of State, and Government, Mr. Nitin Desai, the Secretary-General of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades and Friends.

Comrade President, let me begin by congratulating you and the people of South Africa on hosting this mammoth and yet historic Earth Summit on the Southern tip of the our continent.

It is a great honour and source of African pride to all of us who live, belong and rightfully own this great corner of the Earth.

Ten years ago, we gathered in Rio de Janeiro, in the same numbers and were moved by the same development anxieties that many of us have today.

We worried about our troubled Earth and its dangerously diminishing flora and fauna. We worried about the variegated poor of our societies, in their swelling numbers and ever deepening, distressful social situations.

We complained about the unequal economic power that existed and still exists between the North and South and had historically reposed itself in our international institutions, including the United Nations.

We spoke against unequal terms of trade that made rich and powerful nations enjoy undeserved rewards from world trade.

Indeed, we denounced the debt burden by which the rich North continued to take away the impoverished South even that little they still had.

Your excellencies, we must examine why, 10 years after Rio, the poor remain very much with us, poorer and far more exposed and vulnerable than before.

Our children suffer from malnutrition, hunger and diseases, compounded now by the deadly HIV/Aids pandemic.

No, the World is not like it was at Rio; it is much worse and much more dangerous. Today Rio stands out in history as a milestone betrayed.

The multilateral programme of action we set for ourselves at Rio has not only been unfulfilled but it has also been ignored, sidelined and replaced by a half-baked unilateral agenda of globalisation in service of big corporate interests of the North.

The focus is profit, not the poor, the process is globalisation, not sustainable development, while the objective is exploitation, not liberation.

Comrade President, 10 years, after Rio, the time has come for all of us to state quite categorically that the agenda of sustainable development is not compatible with the current dominant market fundamentalism coming from the proponents of globalisation.

The betrayal of the collective agenda we set at Rio is a compelling manifestation of bad global governance, lack of real political will by the North and a total absence of a just rule of law in international affairs.

The unilateralism of the unipolar world has reduced the rest of mankind to collective underdogs, chattels of the rich, the willful few in the North who beat, batter and bully us under the dirty cover of democracy, rule of law and good governance.

Otherwise how would they undermine at global level the same values of good governance and rule of law they arrogantly demand from the South?

Institutionally, we have relied for much too long on structures originally set to recover and rebuild Europe after a devastating war against Nazism.

Over the years, these outdated institutions have been unilaterally transformed to dominate the world for the realisation of the strategic national goals of the rich North.

That is why, for example, the International Monetary Fund has never been a fund for poor peasants seeking sustainable development.

Even the United Nations, a body that is supposed to give us equal voices, remains unreformed and undemocratic, largely because of resistance from the powerful and often selfish North.

Comrade President, it has become starkly clear to us that the failure of sustainable development is a direct and necessary outcome of a neo-liberal model of development propelled by runaway market forces that have been defended in the name of globalisation.

Far from putting people first, this model rests on entrenching inequities; giving away privatisation of public enterprises and banishing of the State from the public sphere for the benefit of big business.

This has been a vicious, all-out, assault on the poor and their instruments of sustainable development.

In Zimbabwe, we have, with a clear mind and vision, resolved to bring to an end this neo-liberal model.

For us in Zimbabwe, the agenda for sustainable development has to be reasserted, with a vigorous, democratic and progressive interventionist State and public sector capable of playing a full and responsible developmental role.

We are ready to defend the agenda of the poor and we are clear that we can only do that if we do not pander to foreign interests or answer to false imperatives that are not only clearly alien and inimical to the interests of the poor who have given us the mandate to govern them but are also hostile to the agenda for sustainable development.

For these reasons, we join our brothers and sisters in the Third World in rejecting completely, manipulative and intimidatory attempts by some countries and regional blocks that are bent on subordinating our sovereignty to their hegemonic ambitions and imperial interests, falsely presented as matters of rule of law, democracy and good governance.

The real objective is interference in our domestic affairs.

The rule of law, democracy and governance are values that we cherish because we fought for them against the very same people who today seek them to preach to us.

The sustainable empowerment of the poor cannot take place in circumstances where democratic national sovereignties are assaulted and demonised on a daily basis.

The poor should be able to use their sovereignty to fight poverty and preserve their heritage in their corner of the earth without interference.

That is why we, in Zimbabwe, understand only too well that sustainable development is not possible without agrarian reforms that acknowledges, in our case, that land comes first before all else, and that all else grows from and off the land.

This is the one asset that not only defines the Zimbabwean personality and demarcates sovereignty but also an asset that has a direct bearing on the fortunes of the poor and prospects for their immediate empowerment and sustainable development.

Indeed, ours is an agrarian economy, an imperative that renders the issue of access to land paramount.

Inequitable access to land is at the heart of poverty, food insecurity and lack of development in Zimbabwe.

Consequently, the question of agrarian reforms has, in many developing countries, to be high on the agenda of sustainable development if we are to meet the targets that are before us for adoption at this Summit.

In our situation in Zimbabwe, this fundamental question has pitted the black majority who are the right-holders, and, therefore, primary stakeholders, to our land against an obdurate and internationally well-connected racial minority, largely of British descent and brought in and sustained by British colonialism now being supported and manipulated by the (Tony) Blair government.

We have said even as we acquire land, we shall not deprive the white farmers of land completely. Every one of them is entitled to at least one farm, but they would want to continue to have more than one farm.

More than one farm indeed.

Fifteen, twenty, thirty-five, one person!

These are figures I am not just getting out of my mind, they are real figures.

So, no farmer is being left without land and there is no one who would want to leave Zimbabwe anyway.

So those operations, which are underway of how to airlift those who are threatened in Zimbabwe by the regime of Mugabe, as it is said, are really not called for.

We are threatening no one. And therefore, the operations by Mr (Tony) Blair are artificial, completely uncalled for, and an interference in our domestic affairs.

But, we say this as Zimbabweans, we have fought for our land, we have fought for our sovereignty, small as we are.

We have won our independence and we are prepared to shade our blood in of that independence, sustenance, maintenance and protection.

Having said that, we wish no harm to anyone. We are Zimbabweans, we are Africans, we are not English. We are not Europeans.

We love Africa, we love Zimbabwe, we love our independence. We are working together in our region to improve the lot of our people.

Let no one interfere with our processes.

Let no one who is negative want to spoil what we are doing for ourselves in order to unite Africa.

We belong to this continent.

We do not mind having and bearing sanctions banning us from Europe.

We are not Europeans. We have not asked for any inch of Europe, any square inch of that territory. So (Tony) Blair, keep your England and let me keep my Zimbabwe.

Economically, we are still an occupied country, 22 years after our Independence.

Accordingly, my Government has decided to do the only right and just thing by taking back land and giving it to its rightful indigenous, black owners who lost it in circumstances of colonial pillage.

This process is being done in accordance with the rule of law as enshrined in our national Constitution and laws.

It is in pursuit of true justice as we know and understand it, and so we have no apologies to make to anyone.

Mr Chairman, having said that, may I say we are happy that through Sadc, through Comesa and through Ecowas, we are doing our best to sustain our environment in every way possible.

We keep our forests, we keep our animals, we keep even our reptiles plus insects.

We look after our elephants and ivory.

We look after our lions as they roar everywhere.

They attract those who would want to see them.

We sustain our environment.

We are committed to that not just now, but in the future because we want a heritage as a legacy.

We want that to pass on to future generations. But we will need support, we want to be friends and not enemies of other regions.

We want to work together and that is why the theme of this conference is very important to us.

Not only as it brought us together, but we hope that at the end of it, it will have cemented our relations, our oneness to work for this globe, which is ours together.

Finally Comrade President, Zimbabwe has alongside other Southern African countries, suffered a severe drought, itself a reminder that all is not well on our Earth.

We continue to import food to sustain all our citizens during this period of drought.

I join other Heads of State or Government in our SADC region, in expressing my gratitude and appreciation to those countries and organisations that pledged to assist us.

Mr Chairman, as we look at the next decade we must honestly acknowledge those of our actions, which have served mankind and those many others, which have undermined our collective well-being.

Clearly there has to be a paradigm shift from the globalised corporate model to a people-centred paradigm that reaffirms that people must always come first in any process of sustainable development.

And let Africans come first in the development of Africa. Not as puppets, not as beggars but as a sovereign people.

Address at the Non-Aligned Movement Summit (Feb. 25, 2003)

(the text of this speech is from [this website](#) and [this website](#))

The Chairman of NAM and Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Your Majesties, Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me begin by thanking our host Dato Seri Mohamad Mahathir, and through him, the people of Malaysia for the warm welcome and hospitality that has been ours to enjoy since our arrival to this dashing and beautiful city, Kuala Lumpur.

In the same spirit may I also pay tribute to our outgoing chairman, President Thabo Mbeki, for so ably steering our organisation for the past four 'years, which period was quite eventful as President Mbeki rose to the challenges of world affairs thereby giving the Non Aligned Movement (NAM) a special place in the search for solutions towards a just international order.

Zimbabwe joins others in welcoming Timor Leste and St. Vincent and the Grenadines as new members of the Non-Aligned Movement. As we grow in numbers so should we grow in our strength.

The Non Aligned Movement came into being as an instinctual and pragmatic response to an era of dangerous rivalry in global affairs. The United States and the Soviet Union were locked in a deadly race in which the safety of our world from nuclear holocaust was said to be guaranteed by the deterrent value of Mutually Assured Destruction, known more aptly as MAD. The overarching doctrine was that those who were not superpowers or associates of the superpowers were not entitled to real choices. The bipolarity yielded the impulsion that you had to belong either to the United States or to the Soviet Union camp. Our Founding Fathers however resisted that impulsion and refused to join either of the camps opting for neutrality as they established the Non Aligned Movement which they based on the sound permanent values and moral norms that should govern international relations.

Today, however, we find ourselves in a new era of unipolarity constituting a portentous juncture in the history of our Movement characterised by unilateralism-cum-hegemonism, supported by an interventionist military doctrine that bids the more powerful to impose their will on those who, like many of us, are weak. Colonialism now assumes a varied form, and seeks to garner in all of us of the Third World as we get globally villagised under false economic pretences. We are cheated to believe that we shall all be equals in that village, but are denied to assume military strength of the same

magnitude as that of the western and more highly developed States. We dare not develop nuclear arms for this is a prerogative of only the big ones. Trade between rich and poor must be free and uninhibited, and no preferences or derogations will be tolerated in this global village governed by WTO norms. Politically our sovereignty will not have the same weight as that of big brother, and big brother has the right to determine the justice of our systems and not we his. As he likes, he can blatantly use his prejudice to determine and upset the validity of any of our elections and declare a validly elected President of a country illegitimate.

But we must remain silent about the Presidential election fiasco of the United States whose votes failed to produce a winner until the USA Supreme Court, dominated by Republican judges, imposed Mr George Bush (Jr) as winner. And is it not ironical that Mr. Bush who was not elected should deny my legitimacy established by many observer groups from Africa and the Third World? Who should the world impose sanctions on, Robert Mugabe or George Bush? The fact of power has also become, to those who hold it the determinant of justice, morality and even legality. In other words the governing norms of our World have been greatly eroded.

The United States awakened to the implications of being the sole Superpower, joined by Britain, as a born again Colonialist, and other Western countries have turned themselves into ferocious hunting bull dogs raring to go, as they sniff for more blood, Third World blood. We, their hunted game, are for slaughter. The Charter of the United Nations and its sacrosanct tenets of international peace, the sovereignty of nations and non interference in domestic affairs of States, are being desecrated by the day. Listen to the Voice of America, I mean the voice of President as captured by television media, and you will no doubt conclude that he is no longer willing to subject the actions of his Administration to international law, rationality or the force of morality. Iraq might have developed or desired to develop arms of mass destruction. But the United States has massive arms of that magnitude. Why can't the United States demonstrate what Iraq should by destroying their own massive heaps first? They should surely teach by example, and yet they have refused even to sign the treaty on nuclear disarmament. To support the U.S. Administration's zest for aggression on Iraq is to support a proposed inhuman campaign which is sure to see many many lives lost.

Bush and Blair have, apparently developed similar warlike dispositions deriving from similar ideologies of new imperialism. Opinion makers like former Security Advisor to President Carter, Mr Brzezinski have spoken and written freely about a new imperial power. I quote Brzezinski directly to bring out the point:

“Unlike earlier empires, this vast complex global system is not a hierarchical pyramid rather America stands at the center of an interlocking universe, one in which power is exercised through continuous bargaining, dialogue, diffusion, and quest for formal consensus, even though that power originates from a single source, namely, Washington, D.C. and that is where the power game has to be played, and played according to America's domestic rules.”

Brzezinski states further:

“In addition, one must consider as part of the American system the global web of specialized organisations, especially the “international” financial institutions. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank can be said to represent "global" interests, and their constituency may be construed as the world. In reality, however, they are heavily American dominated and their origins are

traceable to American initiative...”

When we think about it, the philosophy that Brzezinski elaborates in his book titled *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and its Geostrategic Imperatives*, should not unduly surprise us. Now Brzezinski also talks openly about American domination in the military, economic, technological and cultural spheres, and exposes a strategy that has been pursued methodically and relentlessly for some time now.

Emboldened by the conviction that the North Atlantic Grouping gained a geo political advantage at the end of the Cold War, Blair's close policy adviser, Mr. Robert Cooper, argues for what he terms a "New liberal imperialism" which asserts that,

“The most logical way to deal with chaos, and the most often employed in the past, is colonization. But colonization is unacceptable to post modern states (and, as it happens, to some modern states too). It is precisely because of the death of imperialism that we are seeing the emergence of the pre-modern world.”

Robert Cooper goes on:

“What is needed then is a new kind of imperialism, one acceptable to a world of human Rights and cosmopolitan values. We can already discern its outline: an imperialism which, like all imperialism, aims to bring order and organisation.”

Again he continues,

“The challenge of postmodern world is to get used to the idea of double standards. Among ourselves (i.e. the West) we operate on the basis of laws and often cooperative security. But when dealing with more old fashioned kinds of states outside the postmodern continent of Europe, we need to revert to the rougher methods of an earlier era, force, preemptive attack, deception, whatever is necessary...”

Who after reading this Blair philosophy would be surprised by his irrational actions on Zimbabwe? He desires and is determined to undermine the sovereignty of my country and introduce neo-colonialist rule. That we shall never allow him to achieve, and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your consistent support and solidarity with Zimbabwe.

But against these enormous challenges, which confront us we should not hesitate to take bold and far reaching measures, which seek to revitalise our movement, tinkering on the margin will just not do. We need a permanent secretariat for institutional memory, implementation of our decisions and for constant and timeous articulation between Summits. If we are serious about our movement and if we want also to be taken seriously, we cannot continue to manage our affairs on an ad hoc or part time basis. It is time we put our money where our mouth is.

I thank you.

Address at the World Summit on the Information Society (Dec. 10, 2003)

(text of speech from the [Information Society itself](#) and from [another website](#))

Mr. President of the Summit,

Your Excellency Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Distinguished Delegates,

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I wish, on behalf of the people and Government of Zimbabwe, to thank and pay tribute to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the people and Government of Switzerland for organising and hosting this landmark Summit on the hope for and challenges of a global information society. I remain cognisant of the fact that this Summit is a culmination of a series of efforts that seek to bring into sharp focus an integral dynamic in human development, namely information, as well as the infrastructural means of its delivery, or what we have come to collectively term information and communication technologies (ICTs).

Mr. President, the new millennium boasts of dramatic technological improvements which have given rise to what is an information revolution. Time, space and distance have collapsed to create what for some is "a brave, new world", with instantaneous and simultaneous dimensions. It is a world of enormous technological leaps, a world where means have improved well beyond measure.

Yet in this new age, we continue to face basic paradoxes. The duality of development and under-development remain implacably in place as the basic and core dialectic to which there is no apparent synthesis. The rich, imperious and digital North remains on the one end of the development divide; the poor, dis-empowered, underdeveloped South remains on the other end of the divide.

Yes, for us post-colonials, we still have an aloof immigrant settler landed gentry – all-white, all-royal, all untouchable, all-western supported – pitted against a bitter, disinherited, landless, poverty-begrimed, right-less communal black majority we have vowed to empower, and in the cause of whom Zimbabwe continues to be vilified, in a country that is ours and very African and sovereign. Hence, in spite of the present global milieu of technological sophistication, we remain a modern world divided by old dichotomies and old asymmetries that make genuine calls for digital solidarity sound hollow. It is a sad, sad story of improved technological means for unimproved human ends.

Mr. President, long after we have talked about the need for information and communication technologies as tools with which to contrive the information society, we are soon to discover that receivers and computers are powered by electricity which is unavailable in a typical Third World village. Long after we have talked about connectivity, we are soon to discover that most platforms for electronic communication need basic telecommunication infrastructure which does not exist in a typical African village.

What is worse, we will discover, much to our dismay, that the poor villager we wish to turn into a fitting citizen for our information society, is in many instances unable to read and write. Where we are lucky to find the villager literate and numerate, we soon discover that he or she is not looking for a computer terminal but for a morsel of food; an antibiotic to save his dying child; a piece of land on which to eke out an existence, in short, looking for a humane society that guarantees him food, health, shelter and education.

For us, E-commerce implies growing economies trading fairly in barrier-free markets. E-education implies economies run for the people, not for the sake of enriching one or two multinational corporations. E-health implies affordable drugs for affordable health delivery systems that can only be guaranteed by policies that are genuinely national. Yes, E-government implies a sovereign national Government that manages "Top Level Domains" within its borders and whose preoccupation are its people first and foremost. Yes, for us E-Zimbabwe means a Zimbabwe with a sovereign people, Zimbabweans, and run by them and not by the British, Australians or Americans. This is a fundamental principle of our U.N. Charter enunciated as the right of self-determination.

Mr. President, the key to, and foundation of an information society lies in the resolution of the dilemma of development. The way to an information society is through even, fair and just development. There is no shortcut.

Today Mr. President, we seek an information society in a world shaped and divisively structured by global hierarchies of power – undiminished, hegemonic power made most arbitrary by the politics of uni-polarity that have led to circumstances of a dis-empowered U.N. system. We seek equal access to information, itself duplicitously presented as a basic human right when in fact it was commercialised and commoditised by a few rich countries a long time ago; and when it is daily managed and deployed in defence of the selfish interests of those countries.

Yes, we seek equal access to information and the control of communication technologies whose genesis in fact lies in the quest for global hegemony and dominance on the part of rich and powerful nations of the North. The ICTs that we seek to control and manage collectively are spin-offs from the same industries that gave us the awesome weapons that are now being used for the conquest, destruction and occupation of our nations. The ICTs by which we hope to build information societies are the same platforms for high-tech espionage, the same platforms and technologies through which virulent propaganda and misinformation are peddled to de-legitimise our just struggles against vestigial colonialism, indeed to weaken national cohesion and efforts at forging a broad Third World front against what patently is a dangerous imperial world order led by warrior states and kingdoms.

The deadly, televised spectacle of an unjust war of occupation in Iraq, based on blatant lies peddled shamelessly on monopolised media, was a dramatic example of a false and failed global information society founded on the twin aggressive impulses of shock and awe. These last two years have shown us how information and ICTs are often deployed as preludes and accompaniments to aggressing the sovereignties of poor and small nations. I say this because my country Zimbabwe continues to be a victim of such aggression, with both the United Kingdom and United States using their ICT superiority to challenge our sovereignty through hostile and malicious broadcasts calculated to foment instability and destroy the state through divisions.

Our voice has been strangled and our quest to redeem a just and natural right has, been criminalized. Today we are now very clear. Beneath the rhetoric of free press and transparency is the iniquity of hegemony. The quest for an information society should not be at the expense of our efforts towards building sovereign national societies. Our national society does not exist to serve ICTs or information. Both must be instruments that serve our society as it seeks fullness through balanced development and self-determination. Both must express themselves within the parameters of our inviolate sovereignty represented by our democratic national will which expresses itself through our national laws, our national policies and our national institutions. On this we are firm and unbending.

Instead, we should seek to use ICTs as tools that can be adopted and adapted to the construction of sovereign national societies, with clear national identities, themselves real and only durable building blocs to vibrant, diverse, just and sustainable global information society.

I thank you.

Message at beginning of Zanu-PF manifesto (2005)

(text of this message comes from [this PDF](#))

On March 31, 2005, Zimbabwe holds a Parliamentary General Election, the sixth since attaining her Independence on 18th April, 1980, after a ZANU PF-led protracted national armed liberation struggle against British white settler colonialism. In all these multi-party elections, ZANU PF, whether as its constitutive predecessor liberation movements of ZANU (PF) and PF-ZAPU, or as a single united political entity, has always commanded majority support, to emerge as the indisputable winner and authentic Voice and Party of the Zimbabwean people. In all but one plebiscite, this electoral landslide translated into an above two-third-majority representation in Parliament, on the strength of which ZANU PF was able to implement the transformation of Zimbabwe from a racist colonial backwater to a vibrant non-racial democracy it is today. Defending the interests of our erstwhile colonizer, Britain. Leading the pack is the MDC, itself a creation and creature of resurgent British imperialism. The impending Silver Jubilee will thus be an affirmation of our sovereign independence which we hold so close and so dear, and which we jealously continue to guard and pledge to defend with our very lives, for the sake of posterity.

The Jubilee is a celebration of the gains which that Independence has yielded and brought to all Zimbabweans: freedom; sovereignty; a non-racial democracy; the land; improved social conditions; education for all; health for all; economic opportunities for empowerment, among many other benefits. These are gains Zimbabweans are not about to let slip by wrongly reposing the governing mandate in dubious, sell-out parties typified by the MDC, parties which will not hesitate to wreck and trample upon this hard-won and precious legacy, in favour of foreign white interests. Blair and his allies will never be allowed to win over us!

ZANU PF is the Party of struggle, liberation and democracy. It was ZANU PF and ZANU PF alone, which led the people of Zimbabwe in their relentless armed struggle against British racist settler colonialism, after forcibly planting itself on our soil in 1890. It was ZANU PF which ended lan

Smith's so-called Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI), thereby restoring, albeit briefly, the authority which quiescent Britain had lost through that rebellion by the white racist settlers grouped as Smith's Rhodesia Front (RF). The British Labour Government of the day lacked the courage to intervene militarily to end that rebellion and illegality. Instead it rushed to the United Nations as if it was a liberation movement! Indeed, it was ZANU PF, which won and brought democracy to Zimbabwe from Britain and its white racist settlers here who resisted it. Their anti-democratic posture had the support of many European nations who flouted UN sanctions designed to end UDI and bring about democracy. Even the successive American administrations would not support anti-UDI sanctions, citing their need to secure chrome from the then UDI Rhodesia, then a strategic mineral for America's defense industry. Not once did European governments or the successive American Administrations support ZANU PF or the Zimbabwean people in their fight for democracy and a just dispensation in Zimbabwe. In other words, neither Europe nor America - the two powers keenest to give us lectures on democracy, had a hand in fighting for, or creating the democracy we enjoy today in the country. No, instead they subverted it out of self-interest. Today we tell them boldly they have no lessons on democracy to impart to us. They cannot teach us democracy today. They had none to give to us for nearly a century of their misrule here. We scoff at and reject such rank hypocrisy.

ZANU PF has nurtured that democracy since Independence in 1980. Unlike countries of the West who continue to hunt for Nazi war criminals to this day, ZANU PF pioneered the policy of National Reconciliation by which Rhodesia's white war criminals stand forgiven, and which has been replicated in other countries of the region and elsewhere in the world. The ZANU PF Government has been able to defend peace and democracy in other countries where both would have been lost: in Mozambique, Somalia, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and most recently, in Equatorial Guinea where the ZANU PF Government averted a potentially bloody coup led by western mercenaries.

Through this Manifesto, ZANU PF speaks to you and to me, speaks to all Zimbabweans in their many beautiful shades and walks of life, renewing its covenant with the People of this Land, and offering its vision, plans and programmes for the next five years, during which it undertakes to build with them a thriving national economy, they will own and control, a growing and expanding economy that will serve them before all else, ZANU PF offers to the Zimbabwean People its tried and tested leadership for another five years, during which it pledges to consolidate the new direction Zimbabwe has charted for itself, a direction guaranteeing that Zimbabwe shall never be a colony again; that never again shall it ever be a minor or a chattel in global affairs.

Speech to the UN General Assembly (Sept. 18, 2005)

(text of this speech comes from [this website](#))

Your Excellency the President of the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Jan Eliasson,
Your Majesties,
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Your Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr. President,

Allow me to extend to you our sincere congratulations on your assumption of the Presidency of the 60th Session of the General Assembly, and to express our confidence in your ability to guide our work throughout the Session. In the same breath, let me also express our appreciation to your predecessor, Mr. Je an Ping, for managing successfully the very difficult business of the 59th Session.

Mr. President,

Although we began our last Session with a weighty agenda, we were able to reach general agreement on a number of important issues in the area of development. We are yet to agree on other pressing issues, such as the reform of the Security Council and the composition of a new Human Rights Council.

Mr. President,

For many years, we have spoken in favour of an approach to international peace and security that is firmly rooted on the principle of multilateralism and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. We maintain that any diversion from this approach is unacceptable, undesirable and devoid of legal justification. We are pleased to note that the majority of views expressed during the last Session reinforced this principle.

Our expectation is that the Security Council, in its current form, or in whatever character and composition it will eventually take, will, like all other bodies of the United Nations, limit itself to what is contained in its mandate. We do not subscribe to the suggestion that all problems, social, cultural, economic, and health, among others, are necessarily threats to international peace and security and that they should therefore be referred to the Security Council.

Recently, we witnessed the United Kingdom abusing its privilege and acting dishonestly as a member of the Council by seeking to score cheap political points in its bilateral dispute with us. We were dragged on to the Council's agenda over an issue that has no relevance to the maintenance of international peace and security. Let me pay tribute, Mr. President, to those members of the Security Council who saw through this cheap politicking and manipulation of procedures, which the same country, by the way, has vowed to resume as soon as the Council is appropriately chaired. It is my hope that Member countries will join us in rejecting this neo-colonialist attempt and blatant interference in the internal affairs of Zimbabwe. But, then, is it not obvious that Britain, under the regime of Tony Blair, has ceased to respect the Charter of the United Nations? Witness its being a principal member of the anti-Iraq illegal Coalition that went on a devastating campaign of the country in complete defiance of the United Nations Charter! Any state or group of States that commits such an act of aggression on another, justifying it on blatant falsehoods, surely becomes guilty of state terrorism.

Mr. President,

Zimbabwe is a country at peace with itself and with its neighbours and offers absolutely no threat to international peace and security. Is it not, therefore, surprising that Britain and its Anglo-Saxon allies have embarked on a vicious campaign of first peddling blatant lies intended to tarnish it and secondly appealing to Europe and America for sanctions against it? These imperialist countries have unashamedly abused the power of the media by hypocritically portraying themselves as philanthropists

and international saviours of victims of various calamities. And yet, Mr. President, they have remained silent about the shocking circumstances of obvious State neglect surrounding the tragic Gulf Coast disaster, where a whole community of mainly non-whites was deliberately abandoned to the ravages of Hurricane Katrina as sacrificial lambs; and sacrificed to which god, one cannot tell. Most of the victims were Blacks, and we are bound to ask what transgressions we, the blacks of this world, have committed? Was it not enough punishment and suffering in history that we were uprooted and made helpless slaves not only in new colonial outposts but also domestically, that is also at home through a vicious system of colonialism? Must we again, in this day of humanitarian ethics, this day of the sacred principles of equality of mankind and the rights of man and woman, this day that has seen us assemble here to save, enhance and prolong life, become victims of callous racial neglect? We of Africa protest that, in this day and age, we should continue to be treated as lesser human beings than other races. We reiterate our deep sympathies and condolences over the massive loss of lives that occurred in the Katrina Hurricane disaster!

If, as we are told, many who survived the wrath of Hurricane Katrina are still on dispersal, the question we ask in our minds is where they are and for how long will they remain dispersed? We ask further whether they will ever get back, truly rehabilitated, to their original homes, at present mere wreckages? Where is the Zimbabwe-famous Habitat, I ask? Why should it maintain ominous silence? For here is real work of the homeless for it! This, indeed, is where it rightly belongs and not anywhere in Zimbabwe!

Mr. President,

With reference to the vexatious issue of the reform of the Security Council, we have made our views known through the African Union. We seek fair and equal treatment as partners in this community of nations, and pledge our commitment to working with others in pursuit of that objective.

Mr. President,

The promotion of human rights is one of the major aims of the United Nations as enshrined in its Charter. As such, the subject rightly occupies space on the agenda of each Session of the General Assembly, including this one. We believe that the United Nations should make every effort to promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights, including the right to development. Regrettably, we have seen over the years, a deliberate tendency to create a distorted hierarchy of rights with the sole mischievous purpose of overplaying civil and political rights, while down-playing economic, social and cultural rights. This explains why the whole human rights agenda, instead of being a cooperative exercise, has degenerated into a Western-managed kangaroo court, always looking out for 'criminals' among developing countries. Hence we continue to argue that the human rights discourse needs to be rid of selectivity and double standards and to be approached without hidden political agendas.

Mr. President,

The African Union has indicated its support for the establishment of a Human Rights Council that will be subordinated to the General Assembly. Zimbabwe subscribes fully to that position. We believe, however, that a correctly-sized and properly structured Council, with equitable geographical representation, will be a major step in addressing the deficiencies of the current Commission on Human Rights.

Mr. President,

At the beginning of the last Session, I informed this august Assembly that, despite the recurrent droughts that we had experienced, Zimbabwe had a capacity to cope with its situation of hunger and was thus not appealing for humanitarian intervention. In spite of that message, our detractors and ill-wishers have been projecting a false picture of mass starvation. There has been none of that. Recently, particularly in the aftermath of our urban clean-up operation, popularly known as Operation Murambatsvina or Restore Order, the familiar noises re-echoed from the same malicious prophets of doom, claiming that there was a humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe. Those unfounded alarms are aimed at deliberately tarnishing the image of Zimbabwe and projecting it as a failed state.

We find it strange and obviously anomalous that the Government of Zimbabwe should be maligned and condemned for restoring order and the rule of law in its municipal areas. Our detractors fail to acknowledge that Operation Restore Order soon gave way to a well-planned vast reconstruction programme through which properly planned accommodation, factory shells and vending stalls are being constructed in many areas of the country for our people. We have rejected the scandalous demand, as expressed in the Special Envoy's Anna Tibaijuka's Report, that we lower our urban housing standards to allow for mud huts, bush latrines and pit toilets as suitable for the urban people of Zimbabwe and for Africans generally. Nothing can be more insulting and degrading of a people than that! Surely, we do not need development in reverse.

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by making my message to our detractors very simple and clear. The people of Zimbabwe came through a protracted guerrilla struggle to establish themselves as a free and sovereign Nation. We indeed went through long and bitter times to get our freedom and Independence and to be where we are today. We cherish that hard-won freedom and Independence, and no amount of coercion, political, economic, or otherwise, will make us a colony again. But we also cherish peace and development, and good regional and international relations. Together with all nations of goodwill, we will continue to work tirelessly for a just, peaceful and prosperous world.

I thank you.

Speech in Harare at Zimbabwe's 26th Independence celebrations (Apr. 16, 2006)

(text of this speech comes from a downloaded PDF [on this website](#))

Honourable Vice President, Comrade Joseph Msika,

Honourable Vice President, Comrade Joice Mujuru and Baba Solomon Mujuru,
Mai Muzenda,

National Chairman of ZANU (PF) and Speaker of Parliament, Comrade John Nkomo,
President of the Senate, Mai Edna Madzongwe,

The Chief Justice Godfrey Chidyausiku and Mai Chidyausiku,

Members of the Politburo and Central Committee of the Ruling Party, ZANU (PF),

Honourable Ministers here present,

Members of Parliament,

Service Chiefs,

The Chairperson of the Harare City Commission, Madam Sekesai Makwavarara,

Families of Heroes of Zimbabwe's Liberation Struggle, War Veterans, War Collaborators, Ex-Detainees and Restricttees,

Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Esteemed Foreign Guests and Visitors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Comrades and Friends,

I welcome you warmly to these Celebrations which mark yet another chapter in our twenty-six years of Independence and Sovereignty. As I do so, I say thank you to all our people who have stood firm in the defence of our country, in different capacities, and resisted the enemy's repeated attempts to reverse our Independence. Today's Celebrations also have an enhanced resonance from the good rain season which should give us improved harvests this year.

Further, the Celebrations carry the echoes of the September 2005 landmark, when through Constitutional Amendment No. 17, Government removed the legal hurdles that had inhibited the speedy and conclusive implementation of the Land Reform Programme. As we are aware, the Amendment designates all the land acquired for resettlement purposes as State land. Consequently, the historic milestone has already facilitated the transfer of 5 256 commercial farms, measuring over 8 million hectares to the State as owner.

Because agriculture is a vital cog in the overall turnaround of the country's economy, Government has provided several measures to strengthen and enhance the sector, which include financial support schemes, seed, fertilizer and tillage equipment in respect of cropping. In the area of livestock, there has been the provision of bulls and heifers to the small-holder farmers. To enhance the availability of trained agricultural experts, Government has increased the number of agricultural colleges and institutes offering both diplomas and certificates. The process has transformed former Youth Training Centres into full-fledged training centres, with the first intakes enrolling this year.

Our economy has over the last three years suffered from the effects of both a spate of devastating droughts and an evil programme of unjustified sanctions resulting in various shortages of food, drugs in hospitals and clinics, electricity supply and steep rises in prices of essential commodities. In response to these challenges, Government has adopted the National Economic

Development Priority Programme to stabilize the economy in the next 6-9 months by focusing on food security and increased agricultural production; foreign exchange generation and mobilization through the full utilization of the idle capacity in all sectors of the economy, to be accompanied by aggressive marketing of Zimbabwe as a conducive investment destination. Consequently, the economy is expected to grow by between 1-2 per cent this year, underpinned by agriculture with a forecast growth rate of 9 per cent.

Government is examining several strategic alliances and joint ventures that can facilitate injection of additional capital and access to modern technology, and hence address the underutilisation of capacity at most parastatals. Already, ZiscoSteel has benefited from this new thrust through a management contract with Global Steel Holdings of India.

Tourism remains one of the pillars of our economic recovery. In this context, the "Look East Policy" is undergoing refinement in order to achieve a rewarding diversification of tourism markets. While several promotional missions have been mounted in the Asian markets, there has also been a simultaneous development of domestic tourism to offer attractive and affordable packages to the local market.

To ensure self-sufficiency in energy and power generation, Government has engaged potential investors, again, under the "Look East Policy", to expand Hwange and Kariba power stations by an additional 300 and 600 Megawatts, respectively. In order to improve efficiency in the sector, a Regulatory Commission has been established to regulate the electricity industry and to promote private sector participation in power generation.

Government is committed to ensuring the adequate, constant and consistent supply of fuel for the different but complementary needs in the country. For example, the resumption of blending petrol and ethanol is now at an advanced stage, while the proposed National Bio-diesel Feedstock Production Programme is intended to boost national diesel supplies by 10 per cent. The provision of good infrastructure and social services remains a *sine qua non* of any economic turnaround programme. Government has thus continued with the improvement and maintenance of both rural and urban road networks. In addition, a number of bridges were constructed and completed in all the country's 10 provinces last year.

Similarly, the goal of affordable shelter is another major priority for Government. In this context, in May last year, Government embarked on *Operation Restore Order (Murambatsvina)*, which was immediately followed by *Operation Garikai/Hlalani Kuhle*, in order to achieve the twin objectives of restoring order and cleanliness to our cities, while also addressing the housing needs of our people. Additionally, we are, through the same programme, providing better planned and more hygienic operating places for vendors.

I am pleased to note that of the 7478 planned units for Phase One of *Operation Garikai/Hlalani Kuhle*, 3325 were completed last year, and have been allocated to deserving beneficiaries. *Operation Garikai/Hlalani Kuhle* will continue, albeit with a shift towards now providing infrastructure and services to project sites and stands for beneficiaries who can construct their own houses on an Aided Self-Help basis. In addition, Government disbursed grants of \$1.1 trillion to local authorities for further expansion and maintenance of critical infrastructure. To ensure access to safe clean drinking water by communal and resettled communities; a total of 68 new water points were established, while 8700

boreholes and 4200 deep wells underwent various levels of maintenance. Further, 48 dams are under repair and 21 small to medium-sized irrigation schemes are being rehabilitated in communal resettlement areas.

Rampant theft and vandalism of cables, signalling and track infrastructure have continued to upset the gains made in improving railway transportation and telecommunications. In the telecommunications sector, Tel*One commissioned two new digital exchanges in Masvingo and Gweru, while a 7000 Trunk International Gateway Exchange system was also commissioned to improve regional traffic and Zimpost established eleven post offices in previously under-serviced parts of the country.

Over the last twelve months, Government has remained steadfast and focused on poverty reduction and alleviation of the current economic hardships being borne by vulnerable social groups. Thus, Government allocated \$160 billion towards the drought relief programme last year. We are happy that no one anywhere in the drought stricken areas was allowed to die of hunger. We thank the arms of Government which were put in charge of drought relief and the Church and other organisations that offered complementary efforts.

My Government values the youth as future leaders and protectors of our revolution who should be empowered and correctly oriented towards nation building. To this end, in 2005, Government supported twenty-eight projects worth \$1.165 billion and used a further \$1 billion to support commercial farming projects at five vocational training centres through the Employment Creation Fund.

The creation of the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development in April last year, was a clear demonstration of our commitment to gender parity, unity and the empowerment of women. The Cassava Growing Programme, which is receiving assistance from neighbouring and other regional countries, the resuscitation of women's clubs, and the promotion of village banks are some of the grassroots activities designed to help women play a useful role in the economic life of our country.

Since the attainment of our Independence in 1980, Government has endeavoured to provide quality education through the introduction of multifaceted innovations in the country's education system. The Education Act, amended in 2005, has introduced a number of significant changes. These include a clear policy on education and sign language, the control of fees and levies in all schools, the teaching of Shona, Ndebele and English in all schools and enabling Government to introduce a two-way education structure for post-Basic Education after Form II.

The Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education continually evaluates and introduces programmes aimed at improving the quality of education at this level. As part of the rationalisation of technical, vocational education and training, the Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) was, in 2005, transformed into a degree awarding institution that will spearhead scientific and technological innovation, promote entrepreneurship, and create strong links between vocational training and industry. In order to increase access to university education, Lupane State University enrolled its pioneer students in August 2005, while Madziva Teachers' College was in the same year launched as the first Government rural teachers' college.

Given the global advancements in Information and Communication Technology, Government has strengthened the teaching of computer studies in schools, by stepping up the provision of computers

and computer software in schools, colleges and universities. As part of this initiative, various institutions have so far received more than 7295 computers under the President's computer programme.

The Health Ministry continues to confront a number of formidable challenges such as the *HIV/AIDS* scourge which remains a cause of unremitting havoc on our population and Nation. Efforts to consolidate the National HIV and AIDS fight have, however, started to pay off, with a drop in the HIV prevalence rate, although more still needs to be done in the area of behaviour change. The local manufacture of anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) has seen their cost dropping to near affordable levels.

The country continued to benefit from support by friendly countries, making possible the refurbishment of infrastructure at the Central Hospitals through the provision of \$100 billion for this purpose. In addition, \$20 billion was set aside for ongoing works at Lupane Provincial Hospital. On the whole, the health sector performed well under a very hostile environment. The fight against corruption has gained growing momentum with the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Vigorous education and publicity campaigns designed to promote partnerships against corruption at various levels of our society are in full swing.

The past year also saw Government aligning the country's anti-corruption fight to that of the region and the international community through the ratification of the SADC Protocol Against Corruption. To combat trans-border crime, Government has also endorsed the African Union (AU) and United Nations (UN) Conventions on Combating and Preventing Corruption. In foreign relations, I am pleased to inform you that our enhanced diplomatic presence in China, Iran, Indonesia, India and Malaysia has given a large boost to our efforts in exploring business opportunities in that region. The rationalisation of Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPPAS) is a clear commitment by the Government to bolster investor confidence. It should be clearly stated however that Foreign Investment should take cognisance of our Indigenisation and Empowerment policy and programmes under which the equity balances as between foreigners and Zimbabweans are regulated.

Zimbabwe's active participation in various international fora, including the Southern African Development Community, African Union, United Nations and Non-Aligned Movement Summits, has helped to safeguard our national interests and to cement support for our policies. We have, at these international fora, highlighted our principled stance on the issue of empowering our people through the Land Reform Programme and also clarified how our detractors have sought to vilify, isolate and punish us for implementing that programme. It is encouraging to note that we have, as a result, strengthened old friendships and established new ones, particularly in the context of our "Look East Policy" as well as South-South Co-operation. Attempts by our detractors to nefariously put Zimbabwe on the agenda of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the United Nations Commission for Human Rights dismally failed because the progressive members of the international Community were able to see beyond the façade of those who have sought to falsely tarnish our image. We know that these evil forces have not given up on their designs and hence we should remain vigilant while also counting on the support we have so far received from our friends in the region and beyond.

The Independence whose 26th Anniversary we are celebrating today was achieved first and foremost through the gallant efforts of our sons and daughters, the freedom fighters or liberation veterans, many of whom are serving in our defence and police forces and other arms of Government. Our Arms of Defence, Police and Security have, through their high level of loyalty, commitment and discipline, continued to display an equally high level of vigilance in safeguarding our security, law and order. Any

one, therefore, who dares lead any group of persons to embark on a campaign of violence or terrorist activities, will be inviting the full wrath of the law to descend mercilessly on him or on those who follow him.

We thank and praise our Security Forces for continuing to sustain our Independence and securing our national Sovereignty against saboteurs, conspirators and criminals. We wish also to praise our Forces for participating in the *Garikai* and *Maguta/Inala* programmes. The *Maguta* programme will certainly reduce our reliance on food imports this year and hence enable us to release more foreign currency for other productive sectors in the economy. We know the conditions of living and salaries of our Forces are deplorable. Government is dedicated to reviewing these salaries and conditions of service in order to enable members of our Forces to be more comfortable than they have been before.

Finally, I would like to thank the Nation for understanding the real nature of our present challenges. This indeed is a clear demonstration of the resolute spirit of Zimbabweans in defending their national Sovereignty. Hence as we celebrate 26 years of our Independence and Sovereignty, let us do so in the knowledge that the unity and oneness of our efforts as Zimbabweans is crucial, especially in the face of the present hard challenges. Zimbabwe is the one and only country we have. Let us make it great with unity in peace because we are a great, peaceful and progressive people. Enjoy yourselves because Zimbabwe is yours for ever.

Amhlophe, Makorokoto and Congratulations!!

I thank you.

Speech at the UN General Assembly (Sept. 26, 2007)

(text of this speech comes from [this website](#), this [internet forum](#), [this forum](#), and [this website](#))

Your Excellency, President of the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Srgjan Kerim,

Your Majesties,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Your Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you on your election to preside over this august assembly. We are confident that through your stewardship, issues on this 62nd Session agenda be dealt with in a balanced manner and to the satisfaction of all.

Let me also pay tribute to your predecessor, Madame Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, who steered the work of the 61st Session in a very competent and impartial manner.

Her ability to identify the crucial issues facing the world today will be remembered as the hallmark of her presidency.

Mr. President,

We extend our hearty welcome to the new Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, who has taken up this challenging job requiring dynamism in confronting the global challenges of the 21st Century. Balancing global interests and steering the United Nations in a direction that gives hope to the multitudes of the poor, the sick, the hungry and the marginalized, is indeed a mammoth task. We would like to assure him that Zimbabwe will continue to support an open, transparent and all-inclusive multilateral approach in dealing with these global challenges.

Mr. President,

Climate change is one of the most pressing global issues of our time. Its negative impact is greatest in developing countries, particularly those on the African continent. We believe that if the international community is going to seriously address the challenges of climate change, then we need to get our priorities right. In Zimbabwe, the effects of climate change have become more evident in the past decade as we have witnessed increased and recurrent droughts as well as occasional floods, leading to enormous humanitarian challenges.

Mr. President,

We are for a United Nations that recognises the equality of sovereign nations and peoples whether big or small. We are averse to a body in which the economically and militarily powerful behave like bullies, trampling on the rights of weak and smaller states as sadly happened in Iraq. In the light of these inauspicious developments, this Organisation must surely examine the essence of its authority and the extent of its power when challenged in this manner.

Such challenges to the authority of the UN and its Charter underpin our repeated call for the revitalisation of the United Nations General Assembly, itself the most representative organ of the UN. The General Assembly should be more active in all areas including those of peace and security. The encroachment of some U.N. organs upon the work of the General Assembly is of great concern to us. Thus any process of revitalizing or strengthening of the General Assembly should necessarily avoid eroding the principle of the accountability of all principal and subsidiary organs to the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

Once again we reiterate our position that the Security Council as presently constituted is not democratic. In its present configuration, the Council has shown that it is not in a position to protect the weaker states who find themselves at loggerheads with a marauding super-power. Most importantly, justice demands that any Security Council reform redresses the fact that Africa is the only continent

without a permanent seat and veto power in the Security Council. Africa's demands are known and enunciated in the Ezulwini consensus.

Mr. President,

We further call for the U.N. system to refrain from interfering in matters that are clearly the domain of member states and are not a threat to international peace and security. Development at country level should continue to be country-led, and not subject to the whims of powerful donor states.

Mr President,

Zimbabwe won its independence on 18th April, 1980, after a protracted war against British colonial imperialism which denied us human rights and democracy. That colonial system which suppressed and oppressed us enjoyed the support of many countries of the West who were signatories to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Even after 1945, it would appear that the Berlin Conference of 1884, through which Africa was parcelled to colonial European powers, remained stronger than the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is therefore clear that for the West, vested economic interests, racial and ethnocentric considerations proved stronger than their adherence to principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The West still negates our sovereignties by way of control of our resources, in the process making us mere chattels in our own lands, mere minders of its trans-national interests. In my own country and other sister states in Southern Africa, the most visible form of this control has been over land despoiled from us at the onset of British colonialism.

That control largely persists, although it stands firmly challenged in Zimbabwe, thereby triggering the current stand-off between us and Britain, supported by her cousin states, most notably the United States and Australia. Mr Bush, Mr. Blair and now Mr Brown's sense of human rights precludes our people's right to their God-given resources, which in their view must be controlled by their kith and kin. I am termed dictator because I have rejected this supremacist view and frustrated the neo-colonialists.

Mr President,

Clearly the history of the struggle for our own national and people's rights is unknown to the president of the United States of America. He thinks the Declaration of Human Rights starts with his last term in office! He thinks she can introduce to us, who bore the brunt of fighting for the freedoms of our peoples, the virtues of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. What rank hypocrisy!

Mr President,

I lost eleven precious years of my life in the jail of a white man whose freedom and well-being I have assured from the first day of Zimbabwe's Independence. I lost a further fifteen years fighting white injustice in my country.

Ian Smith is responsible for the death of well over 50,000 of my people. I bear scars of his tyranny

which Britain and America condoned. I meet his victims everyday. Yet he walks free. He farms free. He talks freely, associates freely under a black Government. We taught him democracy. We gave him back his humanity.

He would have faced a different fate here and in Europe if the 50, 000 he killed were Europeans. Africa has not called for a Nuremberg trial against the white world which committed heinous crimes against its own humanity. It has not hunted perpetrators of this genocide, many of whom live to this day, nor has it got reparations from those who offended against it. Instead it is Africa which is in the dock, facing trial from the same world that persecuted it for centuries.

Let Mr. Bush read history correctly. Let him realise that both personally and in his representative capacity as the current President of the United States, he stands for this "civilisation" which occupied, which colonised, which incarcerated, which killed. He has much to atone for and very little to lecture us on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. His hands drip with innocent blood of many nationalities.

He still kills.

He kills in Iraq. He kills in Afghanistan. And this is supposed to be out master on human rights?

He imprisons.

He imprisons and tortures at Guantanamo. He imprisoned and tortured at Abu Ghraib. He has secret torture chambers in Europe. Yes, he imprisons even here in the United States, with his jails carrying more blacks than his universities can ever enroll. He even suspends the provisions of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Take Guantanamo for example; at that concentration camp international law does not apply. The national laws of the people there do not apply. Laws of the United States of America do not apply. Only Bush's law applies. Can the international community accept being lectured by this man on the provisions of the universal declaration of human rights? Definitely not!

Mr President, We are alarmed that under his leadership, basic rights of his own people and those of the rest of the world have summarily been rolled back. America is primarily responsible for rewriting core tenets of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We seem all guilty for 9/11. Mr. Bush thinks he stands above all structures of governance, whether national or international.

At home, he apparently does not need the Congress. Abroad, he does not need the UN, international law and opinion. This forum did not sanction Blair and Bush's misadventures in Iraq. The two rode roughshod over the UN and international opinion. Almighty Bush is now coming back to the UN for a rescue package because his nose is bloodied! Yet he dares lecture us on tyranny. Indeed, he wants us to pray him! We say No to him and encourage him to get out of Iraq. Indeed he should mend his ways before he clambers up the pulpit to deliver pieties of democracy.

Mr President,

The British and the Americans have gone on a relentless campaign of destabilising and vilifying my country. They have sponsored surrogate forces to challenge lawful authority in my country. They seek regime change, placing themselves in the role of the Zimbabwean people in whose collective will

democracy places the right to define and change regimes.

Let these sinister governments be told here and now that Zimbabwe will not allow a regime change authored by outsiders. We do not interfere with their own systems in America and Britain. Mr Bush and Mr Brown have no role to play in our national affairs. They are outsiders and mischievous outsiders and should therefore keep out! The colonial sun set a long time ago; in 1980 in the case of Zimbabwe, and hence Zimbabwe will never be a colony again. Never!

We do not deserve sanctions. We are Zimbabweans and we know how to deal with our problems. We have done so in the past, well before Bush and Brown were known politically. We have our own regional and continental organizations and communities.

In that vein, I wish to express my country's gratitude to President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa who, on behalf of SADC, successfully facilitated the dialogue between the Ruling Party and the Opposition Parties, which yielded the agreement that has now resulted in the constitutional provisions being finally adopted. Consequently, we will be holding multiple democratic elections in March 2008. Indeed we have always had timeous general and presidential elections since our independence.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, let me stress once more that the strength of the United Nations lies in its universality and impartiality as it implements its mandate to promote peace and security, economic and social development, human rights and international law as outlined in the Charter. Zimbabwe stands ready to play its part in all efforts and programmes aimed at achieving these noble goals.

I thank you.

Speech at the Zimbabwean parliament (Aug. 28, 2008)

(text of this speech comes from [this website](#))

Madam President of the Senate, Mr Speaker Sir,
Senators and Members of the House of Assembly,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Comrades and Friends.

I welcome you all to this First Session of the Seventh Parliament of Zimbabwe.

This First Session takes place in the aftermath, and is indeed the logical outcome, of the country's historic harmonised elections. The elections were premised on Constitutional Amendment No. 18 as well as amendments to AIPPA, POSA and the Broadcasting Services Act which were agreed to by all the parties and were unanimously passed by both Houses of Parliament.

This occurrence is highly instructive in reminding us that through constructive mutual engagement and by putting the country first, we can, as Zimbabweans, address problems and challenges on our own. The new dispensation of collaboration across the political divide should now see us single-mindedly

devoting our energies towards the recovery of our economy.

Let me pay particular and special tribute to President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa for his outstanding role as mediator of the Sadc-initiated inter-party dialogue. He has been at it with the patience and endurance of the biblical Job, often against all-round revilement from well-known quarters that have never wanted peace for this land.

Through his mediatory efforts, landmark agreements have been concluded, with every expectation that everyone will sign up to the agreement paving way for an all-inclusive Government.

I wish to pay tribute to all Zimbabweans for having exercised their democratic right in our recent elections in a peaceful manner, notwithstanding the regrettable and isolated cases of political violence, which were witnessed in the run-up to the presidential election run-off.

Happily, all political parties in the country have acknowledged culpability in this violence, itself an important step towards putting behind us the odious habit of election-related violence.

I also congratulate all the members of this new Parliament on having won the mandate to represent the various constituencies. In doing so, I acknowledge the inordinate delay in opening this session of Parliament, hoping you will all appreciate that the delays owed to a praiseworthy search for peace and greater amity for our nation.

Madam President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

The elections are now behind us. What currently is upon us is the challenge of a common vision and effort. The era of specialists who are heavy on critiques and empty on prescriptions is gone. Now is the time for us to put Zimbabwe first, and challenging the many things that stifle our potential and trammel our energies.

Foremost in this regard are the much-reviled illegal sanctions imposed by Britain and her allies, which seek to subvert the will of the Zimbabwean people. These must go. They cannot last a day longer if we, as true Zimbabweans speak against them in deafening unison.

Surely, sanctions cannot be good for any Zimbabwean, and we have abundant evidence of their ravaging impact. We cannot need democracy and condone such blatant spiteful injury at the same time.

We are deeply indebted to Sadc, the African Union, members of the Non-Aligned Movement, our allies in the United Nations Security Council, and other progressive peoples of the world, for their invaluable support and solidarity with us, in the face of the vicious onslaught on Zimbabwe by Britain and the United State of America. We cherish their brotherly advice and support, and pledge that we will not let them down.

Madam President, Mr Speaker Sir,

The current global food shortage and the consequent price escalations, are a powerful reminder to us of the need for concerted efforts to enhance food security at both the household and national levels. This past season saw our agricultural yields sharply reduced owing to a combination of floods, drought and

shortage of inputs.

As always, Government has done its best to ensure that no one starved. Already, a massive programme for the importation of maize from neighbouring countries, notably South Africa, is underway. So is the procurement of locally available maize.

Regrettably, we have noticed the destructive hand of our enemies seeking to undermine our grain importation programme, in the process, pushing up regional food prices. Indeed, food is the latest of their weapons in their regime change agenda.

It is, however, not prudent that we should continue to subsist on food imports. Our efforts are thus being focused on empowering our farmers for greater crop production. Facilities such as the Farm Mechanisation Programme, the Agricultural Support Productivity Enhancement Facility (ASPEF), and the introduction of the Input Pack Support Programme for rural farmers should go a long way in meeting this objective.

These efforts will be complemented by the introduction of an appropriate agricultural commodity-pricing regime, designed to stimulate production. Furthermore, the local fertilizer industry is being supported with foreign currency in order to boost production, while projected shortfalls will be met from imports.

Government will also spearhead implementation of the targeted production of strategic crops. This programme will involve the provision of tillage; seeds, fertilizer, chemicals and harvesting support to identified farmers, who will be required to produce to set targets.

Madam President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

On a broader level, our economy continues to face challenges associated with the hyper-inflationary environment. These range from shortages of basic and essential commodities, foreign currency, fuel and power, as well as declining quality of infrastructure. This negative state of affairs is further compounded by the prevalence of speculative and profiteering tendencies as well as in-built price misalignments in the economy. We have also detected an insidious foreign hand in the destabilisation of our currency.

Government, in conjunction with the other critical stakeholders is embarking on a short- term bridging economic stabilisation programme. The programme seeks, among other things, to encourage price stability, introduce appropriate currency reforms, boost availability of basic and essential commodities, boost the availability of foreign currency, enhance food security, aggressively embark on infrastructure development as well as revamping service delivery by public utilities.

Targeted subsidies will be introduced to cushion vulnerable social groups from the anticipated adverse effects of the pricing reforms, while greater emphasis shall be on combating endemic corruption and wanton indiscipline that is so pervasive in the economy.

The initiatives I have referred to need to be complemented by enhanced fiscal prudence. Accordingly, the Public Finance Management Bill, which is designed to minimise misappropriation and mismanagement of public funds, shall be tabled before this august House. In addition, the Audit Bill,

which should enhance accountability in the audit process and eliminate inherent limitations in the current Audit and Exchequer Act, will be introduced during this session.

Madam President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

In the energy and power sector, the shortage of foreign currency has contributed to minimal maintenance of power supply infrastructure, a situation which explains frequent breakdowns and unscheduled power cuts currently being experienced.

However, the agreement signed between Government and NamPower of Namibia for the refurbishment of the Hwange Power Station will go a long way in redressing this undesirable state of affairs.

Already, this has seen the completion of Unit 1 of the station, while work on the other three units is expected to be complete by October 2008. The Energy Laws Amendment Bill, which seeks to facilitate the harmonisation of the energy sector, shall be brought to Parliament during this session.

With regard to fuel, the supply of the product continues to be constrained by the shortage of funding, coupled with the unprecedented rise in oil prices on the world market. This situation demands that we reorient our mindset and reduce the ostensible careless consumption of fuel.

For this reason, innovative measures such as the fuel conservation programme, promotion of bio-fuels production, and the resuscitation of blending of petrol with ethanol, are being implemented, while the exploration of solar and coal-bed methane gas as alternative energy sources is being accelerated.

I am pleased to note that the production of fuel-grade ethanol at Triangle has already started, while the Crude Oil Agreement with the Equatorial Guinea, which had expired, has been renewed.

Measures to curb the current upsurge in cases of vandalism of public utilities infrastructure must be strengthened. Service delivery by TelOne, NetOne, Zesa and the National Railways of Zimbabwe, has been compromised, in some cases severely.

Accordingly, Government is establishing co-ordinated security structures incorporating local communities and other relevant stakeholders for purposes of safeguarding public infrastructure. The levels of such unlawful activities require a reclassification of the crime. It now has to be viewed as economic sabotage.

Madam President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

The empowerment of the formerly deprived indigenous majority of our people is the centre piece of our development efforts. Now that the National Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act, which provides for the acquisition of at least 51 percent shares in every public company and any other strategic businesses by indigenous persons is law, implementation of the empowerment policy shall be pursued with renewed vigour on a sector by sector basis.

However, to facilitate implementation, some amendments of the Act will have to be brought to this Parliament during this season. The amendments will, among other things, empower the relevant minister to prescribe what constitutes a strategic company or sector, the timeframe for compliance with

the Act, and the approval format for indigenisation arrangements.

This development will also facilitate expeditious tabling of the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill in Parliament, which seeks to broaden participation in the sector by indigenous players.

Madam President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

Government will also press ahead with the implementation of initiatives to promote the growth and development of the small and medium enterprises sector. One such initiative is the US\$5 million grant availed under the Indo-Zimbabwe Project, in terms of which machinery and equipment have been availed to assist the designing and manufacturing processes in the sector.

Under the same project, SMEs Technology Centres have been established at the Harare Institute of Technology, in Bulawayo and Chitungwiza. Other such common service facilities will be established at growth points throughout the country.

However, to guarantee sustainable development of the sector, it is necessary to create a conducive regulatory and operating framework. To this end, the Small and Medium Enterprises Bill shall be brought to Parliament during this session.

Madam President, Mr Speaker Sir,

Whereas as a country we have made tremendous strides in the education sector, there is still need to ensure that our education remains globally competitive as well as relevant to national needs. This is consistent with our goal to become a knowledge-driven and globally competitive economy.

Accordingly, the Zimbabwe Qualifications Authority Bill, which seeks to integrate and harmonise qualifications, and superintend the development and registration of national qualification standards, will be brought before this august House.

The Bill will also seek to align the Zimbabwe Qualifications Framework to the proposed Sadc Regional Framework of Qualifications and Quality Assurance Systems. The Education Act shall also be amended to provide a more sustainable basis for pegging school fees.

Madam, President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

Health service delivery continues to be constrained by the shortage of essential drugs, equipment, food, transport and skilled personnel. It is, however, pleasing to note that steady progress is being registered in addressing these challenges. For instance, the introduction of a generic training programme has ensured that there is at least one trained nurse at every health facility. The training shall be scaled up to achieve a full complement of staff at the health centre level and in laboratory and X-ray services.

Staff retention in the sector is set to be enhanced through incentives such as the provision of affordable transport and housing under the recently launched Medical Skills Retention Scheme. Government is also pursuing arrangements for the local manufacture of affordable drugs, while the sector is being prioritised in terms of foreign currency allocation.

It is, however, noted with concern that efforts to promote sanitation, health and hygiene continue to be undermined by the persistent erratic water supply situation, especially in major urban areas. To address this challenge, steps are being taken to build the requisite capacity in Zinwa.

I am pleased to note that Government has already taken delivery of considerable quantities of the required equipment and machinery procured from China. Installation of the equipment is already in progress, as a result of which some improvement in water and sewer pumping is already evident in parts of Harare.

The District Development Fund, in conjunction with Zinwa, is carrying out a borehole sinking and rehabilitation programme in some parts of our urban areas, while work will continue in mobilising funding for the procurement of the much-needed water treatment chemicals.

Madam, President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

The shortage of coal for tobacco curing has resulted in increased deforestation on farms. To reverse this negative trend, Government shall come up with regulations that compel tobacco farmers to grow woodlots for purposes of tobacco curing.

Furthermore, in the area of environmental management, Government will, during this session, bring for consideration by Parliament the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Basel Convention on Transboundary Hazardous Waste, the Rotterdam Convention on Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species.

The phenomenal growth witnessed in the construction industry has raised the need for enhanced regulation of activities in that sector. Accordingly, this Parliament will during this session, consider the Zimbabwe Construction Industry Council Bill, which provides for the establishment of a council responsible for maintaining standards in the sector.

Madam President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

Workers across the board continue to face an acute shortage of accommodation, ever increasing transport costs and declining disposable incomes, owing to the prevailing hyperinflation. Government will continue to periodically review tax thresholds, thereby increasing workers' disposable incomes.

To address the plight of the commuting public, increased support shall be availed towards the recapitalisation of Zupco as well as boosting the fleet of buses under the District Buses Programme.

Increased fuel allocations and waiver of duty on spares shall be extended to private transport operators. Moves by some companies to provide transport for their employees should be applauded, and indeed, encouraged.

The current harsh economic environment has also undermined the welfare of pensioners and other older persons, who now also have a huge dependants burden, owing to the unabating HIV/Aids pandemic.

Accordingly, the Older Persons Bill, which will cater for the entire welfare of older persons, shall be

tabled during this session. On its part, Government has since indexed the pensions of retired civil servants to the salaries of serving members so as to improve their livelihood.

Madam President, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Corruption imposes a huge cost burden on the conduct of business. As such, efforts to revive the country's economy could remain a pipedream unless they are supported by stern and decisive action to eradicate the scourge of corruption, which has now reached alarming levels. This will have to be done sooner rather than later. There will be no sacred cows seeking to hide behind the banner of social positions or party affiliation for their venal tendencies.

Madam President, Mr Speaker Sir,

Zimbabwe, as Vice Chair of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) regional grouping, will be the next host of the regular Comesa Summit. Accordingly, the country has to position itself to reap from the expected benefits as well as the anticipated establishment of the Comesa Customs Union.

Following the signing of the Beira Development Corridor Agreement between Zimbabwe and Mozambique in December 2007, work is now underway to implement the identified projects. One such project is the Forbes/Machipanda One-Stop Border Post.

Concerted efforts are being made to expedite implementation of co-operation agreements with our "Look East" development partners. The agreements cover strategic sectors of the economy such as power and energy, mining, infrastructure development and agriculture.

The tractor project between the Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company (ITM Co) and the Industrial Development Corporation is set to yield tremendous benefits to Zimbabwe by way of technology and skills transfer; import cost savings and expert revenues.

On the diplomatic front, we continue to call for the reform of the United Nations, in order to render it truly representative of its broad constituency, thus providing checks against the abuse of power by those who are favoured by the current unpopular geopolitical system. The prevailing order where the stronger nations tread over the rights of smaller nations and manipulate the United Nations mechanisms with impunity constitutes a grave threat to international peace.

Zimbabwe has been a victim of this not only cynical but abusive manipulation of the UN Charter. Equally, we have seen attempts by bigger nations at destabilising world peace. Western countries must stop their unholy policy of global encroachment, which can only undermine the status quo or even re-ignite a new arms race.

In conclusion, I wish to urge all Zimbabweans to rekindle the spirit of national pride and self-belief as we strive to build a strong, united and prosperous Zimbabwe. Let us exert our full effort towards raising our country and its flag in the manner our Olympic team has done in Beijing.

I am sure you all join me in congratulating them, especially Kirsty Coventry, most heartily on that heroic performance.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and have pleasure in now declaring this First Session of the Seventh Parliament of Zimbabwe officially open.

I thank you.

Speech to the UN General Assembly (Sept. 25, 2009)

(speech's text comes from [this PDF](#))

Your Excellency, President of the 64th Session of the General Assembly, Mr. Ali Abdulsalam Treki;

Your Majesties;

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;

Your Excellency, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki Moon;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Comrades and Friends

Let me begin by extending our warmest congratulations to you, Mr. Treki, on your election as President of the 64th Session of the General Assembly. Your election to this high office is a befitting and eloquent tribute to the personal and diplomatic qualities that we have witnessed in you over the years. We are, indeed, proud of the honor that has been bestowed upon the African continent as a result of your election. We are confident that, under your wise stewardship, we will make pleasing progress on the important agenda before us.

In the same vein, I wish to commend your predecessor, the President of the 63rd Session, Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, for having brought his experience and wisdom to bear upon the various meetings and conferences that he presided over during the last year. He brought integrity, transparency and credibility to the deliberations of the General Assembly. Indeed, we share his assertion, that the G-192, that is, the General Assembly, being the most representative body of the United Nations, is the best forum to tackle global issues which include the current financial and economic crises. We commend him for standing up for what is right and for upholding the right of each Member State to be heard, no matter how small.

Mr. President,

Over the years, my delegation has underlined the need for the United Nations and other international bodies to truly serve the collective interest of all Member States. Our unchanging conviction is that all international institutions should abide by the universal principles which underlie multilateral processes of decision-making, particularly, the principle of equality among States and the right to development. It is in this context that we welcome the appropriate, indeed, timely, theme of this Session: "Effective

global responses to global crises, strengthening multilateralism and dialogue among civilizations.” It is our hope that we will have a candid and holistic debate on the global responses to the crises that current affect our world.

Mr. President,

Zimbabwe supports revitalisation of the General Assembly to make it more effective and thus enable it to fulfill its mandate. As the pre-eminent deliberative and policy-making body of the United Nations, the General Assembly should play a more active role in mobilising action against such challenges today as peace and security, the financial and economic crises, economic and social development, and climate change. Accordingly, the encroachment of other UN organs upon the work of the General Assembly is of great concern to us. We therefore reiterate that any process of revitalisation should strengthen the principle of accountability of all principal and subsidiary organs of the United Nations to the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

It is our hope that the current negotiations on the reform of the United Nations Security Council will break the deadlock that has for some time now prevented us from making progress in an area of strategic interest for Africa. The reform of the Security Council is not only desirable but imperative, if it to ensure the successful implementation of its global mandate to maintain international peace and security on behalf of all Member States. The fact that Africa, a major geographical region, remains under-represented and without a permanent seat on the Security Council is not only a serious and antiquated anomaly whose time for address is overdue. It is also clearly an untenable violation of the principle and practice of democracy in international relations. The reform of the Security Council should urgently take full notice of the African position which demands two permanent seats, with complete veto complete veto power, plus two additional non-permanent seat.

Mr. President,

The UN Conference on the Financial and Economic Crises held in June 2009 rightfully positioned the United Nations at the centre of efforts to deal with the global financial and economic crises. The devastating effect of the current global crises has clearly exposed the folly of leaving the management of the global economy in the hands of a few self-appointed countries and groupings. My delegation, therefore, fully supports the setting up of a follow-up working group under the aegis of the General Assembly. It is urgent and critical that the working group reaches an early agreement on immediate policy actions to be taken by the international community in support of developing countries, who have suffered the most as a result of this global financial meltdown. Such actions should include the development of a global stimulus plan to respond to the crisis and other issues related to it.

Mr. President,

These measures will not achieve the desired objectives unless accompanied by a comprehensive reform of the Bretton Woods institutions which, among other things, would include representation of sub-Saharan Africa on the Executive Boards of these institutions. We are glad that our unequivocal call for their reform is beginning to bear fruit. We, therefore, welcome the recent decision by the World Bank to establish three seats for Africa on its Executive Board. We are similarly pleased that, earlier this month, the IMF finalised the re-allocation of Special Drawing Rights on the basis of the US \$250 billion pledged by the G20 at its meeting in April 2009. Regrettably, only a mere US \$18 billion of this money was located to low income countries, while the developed countries, which caused the crises, got the lion's share.

Mr. President,

The need to ensure global food security has been raised and re-stated at many international forums. We reiterate our call for an urgent and substantial increase in investment in agriculture in developing countries. It is critical that provisions of agricultural inputs, seeds, fertilisers and chemicals be put in place for small scale farmers, particularly, women. To achieve this, there is a need to channel more support towards agriculture, which has dwindled over the last few decades. In addition, we call upon the developed countries to remove or reduce their agricultural subsidies and open up their markets for agricultural products from developing countries.

Mr. President,

In the area of health, efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality, and combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, still fall short of targets despite the commitments made at the national and international levels. Over the last few years, Zimbabwe has made great strides in the fight against the HIV and AIDS pandemic, our limited resources notwithstanding. The country has witnessed a drop in the adult prevalence rate of 20 per cent in 2000 to 11 per cent this year. However, the country still faces a major challenge in increasing the availability of affordable anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs). We, therefore, continue to urge the international community, in cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, to assist in increasing access to affordable essential drugs, particularly for people in Africa.

Mr. President,

People living with HIV and AIDS expect delivery on the commitments we have made. For sub-Saharan Africa, malaria presents yet another still formidable challenge. The commitment of the international community and national governments therefore needs to be strengthened so as to eradicate the scourge of malaria from our part of the world.

We warmly welcome the renewed enthusiasm by Russia and the United States to pursue actions to achieve a world free of nuclear arms and we urge other nuclear weapons states to do the same. In this regard, Zimbabwe is honoured to have chaired, in May this year, the Third Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Nuclear Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and takes this opportunity to thank members for their support. We are hopeful that, having secured agreement on the Conference agenda, members will produce a renewed commitment to the three pillars of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty; namely, nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Mr. President,

May I now turn to the developments in my country. Since its formation in February of this year, the Inclusive Government in Zimbabwe has demonstrated a conviction and unity of purpose, and an unwavering commitment to chart a new vision for the country and to improve the lives of the people in peace and harmony. In the Global Political Agreement, we have defined our priorities as the maintenance of conditions of peace and stability, economic recovery, development, promotion of human rights and improvement of the condition of women and children.

Regrettably, while the countries in the SADC region have made huge sacrifices and given Zimbabwe financial and other support at a time when they too are reeling from the effects of the global economic crisis, the western countries, the United States and European Union, who imposed illegal sanctions against Zimbabwe have, to our surprise, and that of SADC and the rest of Africa, refused to remove them. What are their motives? Indeed some of them are working strenuously to divide the parties in the

Inclusive Government. If they will not assist the Inclusive Government in rehabilitating our economy, could they please stop their filthy clandestine divisive antics. Where stand their humanitarian principles when their illegal sanctions are ruining the lives of our children?

We similarly call for an immediate end to the coercive, illegal and unjustified fifty-year economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba which is estimated to have cost Cuba so far a total of US \$96 billion, causing untold suffering on that country and its people. My delegation joins other Non-Aligned Movement countries which have repeatedly condemned the use of unilateral coercive measures as a flagrant violation of the norms of international law and international relations, especially as they govern relations between States under the UN Charter.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Let me conclude by reiterating the need for effective and comprehensive multilateralism to promote the global partnership for peace and development. The United States and other international organisations which carry the legitimacy of multilateralism should play a leading role in directing the course of events and developments, taking into account the interests of the majority of its members in an inclusive, peaceful, just, universal and democratic manner. It is our hope that through our unity, solidarity, cooperation and commitment, the challenges facing the international community could be addressed. Let us rise to the occasion and demonstrate our political will and ability to work together for the good of humanity. Zimbabwe is willing and ready to play her part.

I thank you.

Speech to the UN General Assembly (Sept. 24, 2010)

(speech's text comes from [this PDF](#) and [this website](#))

Your Excellency, President of the 65th Session of the General Assembly, Mr Joseph Deiss,

Your Majesties,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Your Excellency, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-Moon,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Comrades and Friends,

Mr President,

Allow me to once again extend to you our warmest congratulations on your election as President of the 65th Session of the General Assembly. I would, at the same time, like to assure you of Zimbabwe's support and co-operation during your Presidency.

Mr President,

We are meeting today to reaffirm our commitment to the United Nations and, in particular, to its comprehensive agenda for the promotion of peace and security, sustainable development and human rights.

We are, however, concerned that the world today continues to witness unbridled acts of aggression, wars, conflicts, terrorism and rising levels of poverty. We are also alarmed that powerful states, which daily preach peace and good governance continue to trample with impunity upon the sovereignty of poor and weak nations.

Zimbabwe yearns for a community of nations that recognises and respects the sovereign equality of all nations, big and small, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. We all have positive roles to play in promoting peace and development for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mr President,

As members of the United Nations, we have recognised the pressing need to reform our Organisation to make it better able to carry out its various mandates.

Zimbabwe stands ready to work closely with you, as well as with other Member States, to ensure that the reform process is speeded up and carried out on the basis of consensus and democratic participation. Most immediately, we must find ways and means to re-establish and assert the pre-eminent role of the United Nations in advancing peace and security, development and the achievement of internationally agreed goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Why are the developed Western Countries, especially those permanent members with the veto, resisting the democratisation of the United Nations organs, especially the Security Council? Aren't they the ones who talk glibly about democracy in regard to our developing countries. Or are they sanctimonious hypocrites whose actions contradict their sermons to us?

Mr President,

As we all know, the General Assembly is the most representative organ of the United Nations. Its position as the chief deliberative policy-making organ of the United Nations should therefore be respected. We need to move with haste and find common ground on how to revitalise the Assembly to enable it to fulfil its mandate as the most important organ of our organisation. Most importantly, this process of revitalisation must redress the continued encroachment by the Security Council on issues that fall within the General Assembly's purview and competence.

Mr President,

Our position on the reform of the Security Council is well- known. It is completely unacceptable that Africa remains the only continent without permanent representation in the Council. That historical injustice must be corrected.

We therefore urge Member States, including those that have vested interests in maintaining the status quo, to give due and fair consideration to Africa's legitimate demand for two permanent seats, with full powers of veto, plus two additional non-permanent seats. Africa's plea for justice cannot continue to be ignored. We all have an obligation to make the Council more representative, more democratic and more accountable.

Mr President,

Zimbabwe continues to advocate greater equality in international economic relations and decision-making structures. We therefore recognise the centrality of the United Nations in setting the global development agenda and believe that it is only a more coherent United Nations system which can better support the realisation of all the internationally agreed development goals.

Mr President,
Distinguished Delegates,

The developing world, particularly Africa, continues to suffer from the effects of the global economic and financial crises. It is important to understand that the critical issues that we face today cannot be addressed effectively when so many countries and regions are left out of the key decision-making processes of institutions of global governance. We need to participate in the making of policies and decisions that affect our very livelihoods. It is for this reason that we have called, and continue to call, for the reform of multilateral financial institutions, including the Bretton Woods Institutions.

Mr President,

It is clear that climate change is now one of the most pressing global issues of our time. Copenhagen failed to produce a successor to the Kyoto Protocol, an outcome that many of us had hoped for. Yet that conference was significant in its own way. It demonstrated the futility of attempts by the rich and powerful to impose their views and policies on the poor and weak. What we need, Mr President, is not an imposition of solutions based on self-interest, but a consensus on the reduction of harmful emissions and a climate change regime that balances adaptation and mitigation backed by the transfer of technology and resources.

We need to pay special attention to the three pillars of sustainable development, namely, economic growth, social development and environmental protection. In doing so, we should implement the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It is our hope that when our negotiators meet in Cancun, Mexico, this December, they will produce an outcome that addresses the needs of those most affected by the effects of climate change.

Mr President,

Global food security continues to be a matter of great concern, particularly in the light of increased droughts and flooding. We reiterate our call for an urgent and substantial increase in investment in agriculture in developing countries. Global efforts to address the food crisis, the impact of climate change, and the drive to achieve the MDGs must go hand in hand.

It is disappointing that the Doha development round has stalled despite nine years of negotiations, mainly due to the intransigence of some countries. The Doha round of trade must not be allowed to die

but must instead remain focused on development as it was originally envisaged. We also call on the developed world to show commitment towards global food security by increasing trade and access to their markets. Developing countries need to break away from the unending cycle of humanitarian assistance, and this can be achieved if they have increased access to developed country markets.

Mr President,

Zimbabwe strongly condemns the use of unilateral economic sanctions and other coercive measures in international relations. Such measures are completely at cross-purposes with the principles of international co-operation as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. I say this because my country continues to be a victim of illegal sanctions imposed by the European Union and the United States of America without any reference to the United Nations with the evil intention of causing regime change.

These illegal sanctions have caused untold suffering among Zimbabweans, who alone should be the deciders of regime change.

Our Inclusive Government is united against these illegal sanctions and has made repeated appeals without success for their immediate and unconditional removal. The rest of the international community including SADC, COMESA and the African Union, has similarly called for the removal of the sanctions, but these calls have gone unheeded.

Mr President,

We urge those who imposed these iniquitous sanctions to heed the call by the international community to unconditionally remove them. The people of Zimbabwe should, like every other sovereign state, be left to freely chart their own destiny.

Mr President,

Every year, this august body adopts a resolution on ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States on Cuba. To this date, that resolution has gone unheeded by the US and the result has been the continued suffering of the people of Cuba. Zimbabwe joins the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and other well-meaning countries which call for the immediate lifting of this ruinous embargo.

Mr President,
Distinguished Delegates,

Zimbabwe has expressed its concerns on the continued stalemate in the Middle East peace process. It is unacceptable that decades on, peace continues to elude that part of the world. We call upon all parties involved, particularly Israel, to respect the relevant resolutions passed by the United Nations. It is our sincere hope that current negotiations underway will be inclusive and eventually lead to the cherished goal of a sovereign state of Palestine, thus ending decades of suffering for the Palestinian people.

Mr President,

Since its inception in February 2009, our Inclusive Government has fostered an environment of peace and stability. Several reforms have been implemented and Government has created and instituted constitutional bodies agreed to in the Global Political Agreement (GPA). The Constitutional outreach programme is currently underway and upon its conclusion, a new Draft Constitution will be formulated as precursor to a Referendum next year, hopefully to be followed by an Election.

Achievements in the economic area include the revitalisation of capacity utilisation in industries, the containment of inflation, improvement of service delivery in health and education, as well as the rehabilitation of basic infrastructure such as roads, water and sanitation facilities.

Mr President,

The three parties to our GPA have worked hard to implement most of the issues that they agreed on. To maintain the momentum, we need the support of the region and that of the international community. In this regard, we commend SADC, the African Union, the NAM and indeed like-minded members of the international community for giving us their support.

We believe that constructive engagement, and not isolation and punishment, will bring the necessary impetus to the efforts of our Inclusive Government. Our great country is indeed marching forward in peace and unity.

I thank you.

Speech at UN General Assembly (Sept. 22, 2011)

(text of this speech comes from [this website](#), [this website](#), and a PDF downloaded [from this website](#))

Your Excellency, Mr Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser,

President of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,

Your Majesties,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Your Excellency, Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Comrades and Friends,

Mr. President,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as President of the 66th Session of the General Assembly. My delegation is confident that under your able leadership, the General Assembly will successfully address the pressing issues on the agenda of the current Session. I also wish to pay tribute to your predecessor, Mr Joseph Deiss, for successfully steering the proceedings of this august house during the 65th Session.

Mr. President,

I wish to congratulate the Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, on his re-election for a second term. The Secretary General, we remain hopeful, will strive to shepherd the United Nations in an open, transparent and inclusive multilateral approach. Such an approach, I believe, would renew and revive the hopes and expectations of developing countries in the efficacy of the world body. Zimbabwe reposes her hopes in a United Nations that recognises the equality of sovereign states as enshrined in the founding Charter.

Mr. President,

I want to express my heartfelt congratulations to the Republic of South Sudan on its attainment of independence and its subsequent admission as the 193rd member of the United Nations family. As we all congratulate this new nation, Zimbabwe calls upon the international community to render all the necessary support to its government and people in tackling the numerous development challenges that lie ahead. Zimbabwe stands ready to make its modest contribution to that end.

Mr. President,

The theme, “The role of mediation in the settlement of disputes,” is most apt. But, how do we, the U.N. members, measure in relation to it in our activities here at the United Nations and out there in the real world? It is my principled view that we must be duty and honour bound to operationalise the principles upon which the Charter of the United Nations is based. We must not be guilty of manipulating that Charter to serve our particular or sectional designs and ambitions.

The Charter is our set of commandments that must be strictly obeyed by each and every member if international and regional peace is to be maintained. We cannot honestly say this is the position today in regard to NATO states versus Libya. Whatever political disturbances might have first occurred in Benghazi, the process of mediation and peaceful negotiations was never given full play.

It was deliberately and blatantly excluded from shedding positive influence over developments. There was quick resort to invoking Chapter VII of the Charter with gross deliberate misinterpretation of the scope of the mandate originally given NATO to oversee and protect civilians.

Mr. President, bilateral hatreds and quarrels or ulterior motives must not be allowed to creep into considerations of matters pertaining to threats to international peace and security, or to the principle of the Responsibility to Protect.

We are yet to be convinced that the involvement of the mighty powers in Libya’s affairs has not hindered the advent of the process of peace, democracy and prosperity in that sister African country.

Our African Union would never have presumed to impose a leadership on the fraternal people of Libya as NATO countries have illegally sought to do. At the very least, the African Union would have wished to join those principled members of this august body who preferred an immediate ceasefire and peaceful dialogue in Libya.

The African Union was and remains fully seized with this crisis and will spare no energies in fully complementing the U.N. so that peace returns to Libya and its tormented people. We wish that process God's speed.

Mr. President,

The newly minted principle of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) should not be twisted to provide cover for its premeditated abuse in violating the sacred international principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of states because to do so amounts to an act of aggression and destabilisation of a sovereign state. Moreover, to selectively and arbitrarily apply that principle merely serves to undermine its general acceptability.

Indeed, more than other states, all the five permanent members of the Security Council bear a huge responsibility in this regard for ensuring that their historical privilege is used more to protect the U.N. Charter than to breach it as is happening currently in Libya through the blatant illegal, brutal and callous NATO's murderous bombings.

After over twenty thousand NATO bombing sorties that targeted Libyan towns, including Tripoli, there is now unbelievable and most disgraceful scramble by some NATO countries for Libyan oil, indicating thereby that the real motive for their aggression against Libya was to control and own its abundant fuel resources. What a shame! Yesterday, it was Iraq and Bush and Blair were the liars and aggressors as they made unfounded allegations of possessions of weapons of mass destruction. This time it is the NATO countries the liars and aggressors as they make similarly unfounded allegations of destruction of civilian lives by Gaddafi.

Mr. President,

When we in Zimbabwe sought to redress the ills of colonialism and racism, by fully acquiring our natural resources, mainly our land and minerals, we were and still are subjected to unparalleled vilification and pernicious economic sanctions, the false reasons alleged being violations of the rule of law, human rights, and democracy. My people have condemned these illegal sanctions and recently over two million signatures of protesters have demonstrated their antipathy to them. We thank SADC and the African Union for supporting us and demanding the immediate removal of the illegal sanctions.

Mr. President,

We in Africa are also duly concerned about the activities of the International Criminal Court (ICC) which seems to exist only for alleged offenders of the developing world, the majority of them Africans. The leaders of the powerful Western States guilty of international crime, like Bush and Blair, are routinely given the blind eye. Such selective justice has eroded the credibility of the ICC on the African continent.

Mr. President,

My country continues to work with others for a revitalised General Assembly. However, our ambitions extend to the need to reform the Security Council as well. Africa's call for at least two permanent seats for its members on the Security Council has been constant for decades. Africa cannot remain as the only region without permanent membership in the Security Council.

Mr. President,

The current global economic crisis and its attendant financial crisis compounds the plight of us, the most vulnerable, the developing countries. The present international economic and financial architecture has to be reformed and made to respond timeously to the real needs of all our peoples. The situation challenges the ability of our developing world to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. President,

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action (DDPA) against racism, xenophobia and other related social ills, let us all recommit ourselves to fight and defeat these evils.

Mr. President,

My country fully supports the right of the gallant people of Palestine to statehood and membership of this U.N. Organisation. The U.N. must become credible by welcoming into its bosom all those whose right to attain sovereign independence and freedom from occupation and colonialism is legitimate. Similarly, the tormented people of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic must not be forgotten. We call for immediate progress in the engagements for a solution to their long-running saga.

Mr. President,

The Conference of the Parties (CoP17) later this year is a pivotal occasion from which we should emerge with agreed measures to address matters of climate change and how to mitigate threats to the very existence of small-island states in particular, and to the coastal regions of many heavily-populated nations. Zimbabwe will be fully engaged in those negotiations.

Let me reiterate my country's full belief in the aspirations enshrined in the Charter of the U.N. We must all resist any abuse to which it may be exposed through the unwelcome behaviour of a few. My country celebrates the UN-Women entity as it addresses the position of more than half of humankind in all our countries.

The African Union must not be undermined, rather, it should be allowed to complement the UN's efforts for peace and security on the continent. Zimbabwe is a peaceful member of the AU, SADC, COMESA, NAM and many other international economic and trade organisations and thus desires to continue to play its part in creating a peaceful environment in the world. The United Nations can count on the unqualified support of Zimbabwe as required, even if only in our modest way.

May I wish the 66th United Nations General Assembly every success, Mr. President.

I thank you.

Speech at 12th Zanu-PF Annual People's Conference (Dec. 9, 2011)

(text of this speech comes from [this website](#))

On behalf of our Party, the Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front, I warmly greet and welcome you all to our 12th Annual National People's Conference which is being hosted by the Bulawayo Province as unanimously agreed by our Party. This is an annual event which we deliberately set towards the end of every year so we have an effective, decision-making mechanism for running and servicing our Party between Congresses.

And because this particular Conference takes place just ahead of an election year, it automatically assumes the status and consequence of a real Congress. Thus by way of subject matter and decisions, this whole gathering assumes the full weight of our Congress. Such is the gravity of this two-in-one gathering.

In the same spirit, I warmly welcome delegates from within our region and beyond who have joined us as emissaries of their respective parties. We value this show of inter-party solidarity and hope you will find our proceedings both interesting and enriching by way of showing you how we tackle challenges we face in our own situation. Again, a warm welcome to you all!

Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrade Delegates.

We meet at a time of great events and epochal changes in the world. A time of great, epochal changes to the north of us, in the Afro-Arab World of North Africa. There we have seen momentous turbulence now collectively known as the "Arab Spring." This wave of popular demonstrations has definitely challenged political establishments, some of which had lasted for decades. Events in Libya and to a certain extent Egypt leave us unsure of what the end in those countries will be.

Much worse, we have seen clear evidence of intolerable Western intrusion on our Continent, intrusion whose worst form was the brutal and bloody tragedy we all saw in Libya. The Western world intervened, seemingly in the name of the United Nations. On that flimsy veneer of legitimacy, the well-developed but autocratic nation of Libya was bombed to Stone Age with Gaddafi cruelly and brutally assassinated together with his children. Today, that country is rubble, littered with ruins caused by American and Nato terrorist bombs. Lots of lives were lost, ironically under Resolution 1973 of the United Nations whose informing principle was "the responsibility to protect" civilians. Nato, that is Europe and America killed Libyan civilians ostensibly in order to protect them! History could not have moved in a more cynical way.

Against this naked intrusion, Africa was both unprepared and ill-prepared. Africa was disunited. The already weak continent weakened itself even further. Whatever our stance in the African Union, we undermined ourselves by voting for war on African soil. Today, we have a broken nation, a broken people, broken lives, broken hope. If this trend persists against our own acquiescence, we face the grim prospect of broken Independence. As a liberation movement, Zanu-PF cannot be indifferent to this most inauspicious turn of history. It is a turn which challenges our sacrifices yesterday, indeed,

challenges our achievements today by way of the freedom and Independence we enjoy, and hope to pass on to posterity tomorrow and forever. The events in Libya have sound grim forebodings for our continent and we have to take a stance.

Before the guns of invasion had been silenced, indeed while the blood of the Libyan people was still being drawn, Europe, led by France and Britain, were already having a revivalist mini-Berlin Conference to divide amongst themselves the spoils of that war, principally oil and reconstruction projects. This amounted to a second pillage of Libya, indeed of our Continent, to utter silence on our part as the African Union. Countries like our own Zimbabwe, which is so richly endowed with minerals, and thus so dangerously marked by global imperialism, need to remain very vigilant, always ready to sacrifice for the defence of our Independence and natural resources.

Ordinarily, a party like Zanu-PF, born and built in circumstances of a revolution, the fact of a people's movement must establish instant affinities between us and any such movements wherever they may be. In them, we should see ourselves vicariously. But the North African movements raise grave concerns. As already indicated, we still have to grasp their identities in the context of the African revolution which must always be anti-colonial, anti-imperialistic. Rather, we clearly see the serious efforts deployed by the same forces of imperialism to redirect the bursting energies of a rebelling people towards self-destruction.

Another lesson for all of us is that imperialism cannot be appeased, can never be placated through any concessions or deals. It does not keep its word. Gaddafi, we are told, invested in Europe and America. He even sponsored the re-election of those who shot at him in the end. Much worse, he agreed to be disarmed by his enemies who fawned love and affection. Our revolution must never blink. It must remain wide awake, always vigilant and equipped for its own defence. After all, Kwame Nkrumah, the Ghanaian founder leader and father of new Africa warned us a long time ago that only a dead imperialist is a good one. We must remain strong and steadfast against Western imperialism. We cannot cut deals with it.

We are going through a war-like phase of global capitalism. Today it is oil; tomorrow it shall be our diamonds, platinum, uranium, gold, copper, nickel, iron, manganese, chrome and all. We have all these coveted resources, which is why there will always be attempts to challenge our sovereignty. Whereas in the past all development aid, capital and technology came from the West, we now have a whole new world to relate to, a world with a better appreciation of our situations and aspirations. I am happy to inform you that this alternative capital and technology is already beginning to show itself in our systems. We need to expand that collaborative thrust, all based on equal terms and mutual advantage.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrade Delegates.

In my analysis of the turbulent events of North Africa, I made reference to the dangers of economically excluding the masses from mainstream economic activity. Societies that run on unevenness, run on the principle of shutting out the vast majority of people from mainstream economy, are bound to come to grief, sooner rather than later. Zanu-PF has grasped and understood this primary lesson of societal studies! Unevenness and inequalities are core causes to instability. After all, our revolution was founded on ensuring and assuring the Zimbabwean people of some place in the economic sun.

We did not go to war so the white man continues to run our affairs here. We did not lose so many lives so all those widows, grief-stricken mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, aunts and nieces would settle back to a life of want as in colonial Rhodesia. We fought a war; won that war to win total freedom, total Independence! With that victory the vote had to come. It came. With that victory, the instruments of power by way of Government had to come. They came. With that victory, democracy had to come. It came, brought by us. With that victory, education for all had to come. It came. With that victory, racial discrimination had to end. It ended. With that victory, social services and amenities had to reach all people in equal or at the very least comparable measure regardless of colour or creed. That, too, happened. Yes, with that victory the land, the land, the land, itself the grievance of all grievances, had to come back to its true owners. It did. The land has come, never to go back under whatever circumstances.

Today I tell you that with that victory, our national economy, our natural resources have to come back to us, without any more delay! The resources must revert to us the true owners. They are God-given; the only ones we can ever have as Zimbabweans. They are finite; once scooped out, they subtract from our total stock. Ours is not to prosper children of other Nations while our own grow spectre-thin. Ours is not to develop far away nations, while our own people are condemned to hunger, disease and indigence. No! No! No!

Zanu-PF developed the policy of indigenisation and economic empowerment well before the Inclusive Government. It is our policy which today has taken the form of the law of the land. We conceived it, we developed it, and we pushed it through Parliament until it became law. By the same token, we are its sole defenders, against any and all odds. It goes back to the pith of our war aims, the pith of our whole struggle. It is a matter of life and death for us as an African people seeking real Independence. Let no one fool themselves into thinking we are bluffing. Let them ask the Rhodesians who will tell them Zanu-PF does not play games with matters of blood and sacrifice. This economy shall indigenise, in our lifetime! We are the generation that has been fated by history to make that happen, fated to carve a new place of pride for the African underdog. We dare not flinch.

We have already made a beginning on this policy whose impact should be national. Zimplats pioneered implementation of a facet of this policy of many elements, pioneered modestly in my view. Let them not rest thinking they are done.

They are not, and we shall be asking them to move up, up, up until they satisfy our policy, namely that 51 percent control must rest with our people. Other nations do it; we cannot be different. Unki followed suit and like Zimplats, we will remind them more remains to be done. In both instances, communities who house these resources have been rewarded through a community ownership scheme. Our wish is to cover the rest of the country.

Today we still have the patience to negotiate, to sit and talk with these companies which have been exploiting our resources without putting back much into our communities. Time shall come when we shall not have the patience to talk. We hope it does not get to that.

We are a liberation movement. Yesterday we did not fear to offer our own lives, however dear, to free our People.

It does not make sense that today we fear to enforce our indigenisation policy on grounds that the

economy will collapse. We faced similar dire predictions during our land reform programme. We executed it regardless. Today agriculture is on the rebound, with our people in full charge. In that sub-sector, the shoots of a truly national economy are beginning to show, together with mining, agriculture is a financial carrier of the State, never mind the enormous if not insuperable difficulties which our farmers face with each season. We must never be daunted. After all Marange will always be in Zimbabwe, Unki in Zimbabwe, Zimplats in Zimbabwe, ZimAlloys in Zimbabwe. We would rather leave our resources intact than allow them to be exploited to our detriment. At 51 percent, we have been extremely generous.

Our country does not have an elected Government. I feel I am President to a political arrangement which is makeshift, undemocratic and illegitimate. The Global Political Agreement (GPA) which initially was meant to settle inter-party differences, today threatens to usurp an elementary and inalienable right of the people, that of freely choosing a Government which must run them. The people have been toppled by this thing called GPA. It was never meant to last beyond processes we all agreed were preliminary to the holding of elections. It was just an interregnum, a short transition to a more permanent political arrangement predicated on a free and fair election. But we have constitutional issues to resolve, issues which once debated by our people, drafted by our experts, would then be put back to the people through a referendum. There was a time frame to all that, time frame which has now been totally subverted in the name of budgetary constraints. Today we ask; why are our self-anointed democrats finding democracy too expensive to be an item for the budget, too costly and unimportant to be a priority? Is it because they have been in the kitchen long enough to discover its goodies, its warmth?

There have been too many shenanigans, subterfuges, wiles and tricks, all designed to stymie the wheels of democracy. We must denounce that. We must demand elections in the first half of next year, without fail. This state of so-called inclusiveness, which in reality is a state of national standstill, has not served this country well at all. True, it gave us peace, but that peace must yield a legitimate government free to pursue definite policies without hindrance. This is not so at present. So our Party needs to gear itself for elections. It needs to strengthen its structures, close ranks and pull in one direction so we secure a landslide victory in the elections which must come soon.

Lastly, we in Zanu-PF must renounce and denounce violence. We must reject violence. After all we are right. After all history is on our side. We are the only liberation movement there ever can be for Zimbabwe. We are conceivers of policies which are running the country. We have ideas of taking this country to a new pedestal of validating our people's Independence. Everywhere else, there is clear bankruptcy, leaving us as the only real Party of ideas, programmes and courage to lead in this turbulent world, in these turbulent times. Our progressive ideas should be the sole tools of persuasion and mobilisation, never violence. Should we ever fight, it should strictly be in self-defence. Otherwise, peace, peace, perfect peace!

Long Live our Revolution!
Long Live Zimbabwe!
Long Live the People of Zimbabwe
Long Live our Freedom and Independence!
Aluta Continua!

On that note, I now have the pleasure and honour of tabling the Central Committee Report for your consideration.

I thank you.

Speech at the National Sports Stadium (Apr. 18, 2012)

(text of this speech comes from [this website](#))

Honourable Vice President Joice Teurai Ropa Mujuru,
Honourable Vice President John Landa Nkomo,
Honourable Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai,
Honourable Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara and Mai Mutambara,
Honourable Deputy Prime Minister Thokozani Khupe, Mai Muzenda,
Honourable President of the Senate, Mai Edna Madzongwe,
Honourable Speaker of the House of Assembly, Mr Lovemore Moyo,
Honourable Chief Justice Godfrey Chidyausiku,
Honourable Ministers,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Service Chiefs,

His Worship the Mayor of Harare, Muchadeyi Masunda,
Families of heroes of the Zimbabwe Liberation struggle,
Representatives of different political parties present,
Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Performing Artists joining us on this Day,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades and Friends

I welcome all those of you who are here today and the many other thousands following today's events through other sources of information dissemination, with the great sense of national pride with which we celebrate this occasion. As we are aware, Independence Day is one of the special, indelible days in our history as a country, a day that cannot lose its value nor its importance, for it stands unchanging as a signal of our victory over imperialism, colonialism and racial subjugation. Because of this historic day, first celebrated in April 1980, our people cannot be regarded, much less, treated, as second –class citizens, in their land anymore.

Gradually over the years, in different, phased programmes, and as a united people, we have transformed that political independence which came on the 18th of April 1980 and raised it onto the next step of economically empowering our people. We are not dreamers anymore –we are now masters of our destiny. My gratitude and that of the leaders here, goes to the people of Zimbabwe, who have refused to be divided by the same enemy they encountered yesterday who, today, like the cunning wolf, comes in sheep's clothing.

We can never forget the difficulties and the barbarous treatment that marked the road to the freedom we

enjoy today. It was long, bloody arduous and protracted. It thus took commitment , focus and great sacrifices for our people to effect the complete liberation of this country which Ian Smith had, in his small mind, thought could never be ruled by blacks – certainly, not in a thousand years as he had proclaimed . oh, yes, our sons and daughters backed by their mothers and fathers, scarred physically and emotionally, fought valiantly to dislodge the strongly fortified and arrogant racist settler regime. All of us in this country, whatever our ethnic and cultural backgrounds are proud inheritors of that legacy of total sovereign independence, with all its freedoms and ownership of natural resources.

I say, congratulations, to you all on the attainment of this 32nd Anniversary of our Independence.

But sovereign independence also imposes on us certain obligations and responsibilities as leaders and as ordinary citizens. Thus the security and welfare of every citizen needs to be guaranteed at every stage of our development. Every one of us has the right to life. In this regard, government must fight hunger. Government is aware that while the early rains initially raised the prospects of a good harvest, many parts of the country subsequently succumbed to a devastating dry spell. Provinces such as Masvingo, Matabeleland South and North, parts of Manicaland and Mashonaland East will require some food assistance. Government has accordingly decided that the Grain Loan Scheme and the Free Assistance Programme will be extended until next season in order to assist those of our people in food insecure areas.

As a precautionary measure, government has set aside funding for food shortage mitigation programmes in the affected areas. Government also continues to enhance social safety net programmes targeting children, particularly orphaned and vulnerable, children.

The initiative to create a peaceful environment has recorded some success and those leading the process should be commended for a job well done. Peace is an inevitable pre-requisite for sustainable development in the country. To this extent, all political party leaders should encourage their supporters to promote the spirit of peace, tranquillity and harmony through social dialogue.

Finalization of the Constitution-making Process needs to be hastened. The Principals in the Global Political Agreement will be examining the Draft Constitution so it can soon be put before the people in a Referendum marking the beginning of a definite process towards general elections this year.

Efforts to create the necessary environment for rapid and sustainable economic growth have been thwarted by the continued illegal sanctions imposed by Britain, the United States of America, the European Union and other Western nations. This has in turn frustrated the steady economic recovery efforts through impediments to Zimbabwe's access to world commodity markets and critical concessional funding facilities which are important for rehabilitating infrastructure, industry and the importation of essential industrial raw materials and spare parts.

It is in this context that we call upon those responsible for imposing these sanctions to urgently remove them unconditionally. On this very important matter, we should speak with one voice as a nation.

Notwithstanding the challenges we have endured, I am happy that the economy has continued to register positive economic performance. Last year, growth was estimated at 9.3 percent underpinned mainly by agriculture, mining, manufacturing, tourism and financial services. Production of major commodities in agriculture, which included tobacco, cotton, livestock and Soya beans, recorded a

significant rise.

In manufacturing, capacity utilisation levels which averaged 38 percent in 2010 peaked at around 54 percent last year. This development resulted in the further availability of locally produced goods on the domestic market. To further stimulate industrial growth and development, government simultaneously launched the Industrial Development Policy (2012-2016) and the National Trade Policy (2012-2016) last month. The Industrial Development Policy will provide new impetus for industrialisation and sustainable industrial development by promoting value addition for both domestic and export markets and align the country with global trends. The National Trade Policy is expected to provide the framework for all trade negotiations and agreements for the country at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

Mining continues to be on an upward trend, as reflected by increases in the production of gold, platinum, diamonds and coal. We need more facilities for the local processing of our mineral output in order to maximise on value and to provide employment for our people.

As a major sign of confidence in our tourism industry, Zimbabwe and Zambia won the bid to co-host the 20th Session of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation General Assembly in Victoria Falls next year. Preparations to host this very important occasion are at an advanced stage. I would like to urge the nation to support the initiative as it carries immense benefits through new investments, employment creation and income generation. This year, Zimbabwe will conduct its fourth Census, from the 18th to the 28th of August 2012. The main aim of the Census is to provide demographic and socio-economic data required in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development plans and programmes. I wish to call upon every Zimbabwean to fully support this process and ensure that we have a successful 2012 National Population Census.

The recent launch of the Presidential –eLearning Programmes at Chogugudza Primary School in Mashonaland East Province is clear testimony to Government's commitment to providing quality education to our children. Throughout 2012 and beyond, Government will intensify the introduction of the Programme at our schools, tertiary institutions and universities.

The implementation of the indigenisation and empowerment policy continues to gather momentum through the implementation of various programmes such as the community Share Ownership Schemes which ensure that communities benefit from the resources found in their areas. Such Schemes have been established at Zimplats, to cater for Zvimba-Mhondoro-Ngezi-Chegutu, the Unki and Mimosa Schemes in Shurugwi and Zvishavane and the Schweppes Employee Scheme. The Small and medium Enterprises sector (SMEs) will continue to receive Government attention for the potential it has towards poverty eradication and the empowerment of communities.

Government takes the welfare of its employees seriously and is committed to improving their conditions of service in tandem with improvements in the economy. To this end, the Civil Service Housing Loan Facility has been re-introduced and will help civil servants to acquire houses and stands on a home ownership basis.

In the health sector, the number of people on anti-retroviral treatment for HIV/Aids increased to 410 000 last October. malaria control programmes now cover 89 percent in 45 target districts while immunisation of children exceeded 85 percent. Loss of critical health staff such as doctors and

specialist nurses to the private sector is adversely affecting health delivery.

To meet the growing demand for higher education, preparations have begun for the establishment of the Marondera University of Agriculture Science in Mashonaland East; Manicaland University of Applied Sciences and the Gwanda State University in Matabeleland South. In this way, we would have brought on board the three remaining provinces that were still to have a State university each.

Zimbabwe's foreign policy objective is anchored on safeguarding the country's hard-won Independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. In pursuit of these core values, Zimbabwe continues to strengthen and further deepen its relations with various countries in the Southern African Development Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the African Union, Asia and Latin America through the framework of strategic bilateral Joint Commissions and regional cooperation meetings. The Look East policy is an important consideration on our agenda as it continues to bear fruit both politically and economically.

On the international front, Zimbabwe is concerned that some Western countries continue to abuse the United Nations Security Council and regional organisations in pursuit of subtle and dirty regime change agendas under the guise of supporting democracy, rule of law and human rights.

In this context, Zimbabwe will continue to call for the urgent reform of the United Nations Security Council to make it more representative of the majority of Member States.

The commitment of our defence and security forces to maintaining peace and security in Zimbabwe and beyond is always applauded. I wish to encourage them to carry on the good work in various local, regional and international peace-keeping United Nations and African Union assignments.

Now, as we look forward to the coming years, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to wish our dear nation a happy 32nd Independence Day Anniversary!

Makorokoto!

Amhlophe!

Congratulations!

I thank you.

Speech at the UN General Assembly (Sept. 26, 2012)

(text of this speech comes from [this website](#))

Your Excellency, Mr. Vuk Jeremic, President of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,

Your Majesties,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Your Excellency, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations,

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of my delegation and my own behalf, I extend to Your Excellency, Mr Jeremic, our warmest congratulations on your election as the President of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Your extensive experience in both regional and international affairs will undoubtedly enrich the debate and proceedings during this Session. I wish to assure you of the full cooperation of Zimbabwe as you discharge the onerous duties of this high office.

Mr. President,

Let me begin by reaffirming the rightful and important role of the United Nations in the management of issues affecting international peace and security. In the quest for a more just and equitable international order, Zimbabwe strongly opposed to unilateralism, is committed to multilateralism. We therefore would like to see a United Nations that continues to be a guarantor of world peace and security, and a bulwark in the fight for justice and equality among nations. It behoves us all, therefore, to take the necessary steps to ensure that the United Nations is not marginalised on international issues. Equally important, the United Nations must in future never allow itself to be abused by any member state or group of States that seeks to achieve parochial partisan goals. The Charter of the United Nations clearly stipulates it as an international body that should work for the good of all the peoples of the world.

Mr. President,

We recognize that there are existing and emerging threats and challenges that continue to frustrate our individual and collective efforts to attain greater economic development and social progress, as well as peace and security. But the increasing trend by the NATO States inspired by the arrogant belief that they are the most powerful among us, which has demonstrated itself through their recent resort to unilateralism and military hegemony in Libya, is the very antithesis of the basic principles of the United Nations. In that case of Libya, the African Union and its peace-making role was defied, ignored and humiliated. May we urge the international community to collectively nip this dangerous and unwelcome aggressive development before it festers. In this regard, Mr President, the theme you have chosen for this session, namely; "Bringing about Adjustment or Settlement of International Disputes or Situations by Peaceful Means," is very appropriate. The warmongers of our world have done us enough harm. Wherever they have imposed themselves, chaos in place of peace has been the result. The situation created by the Bush-Blair illegal campaign of aggression against Iraq has made worse the conflict between the Sunnis and Shias. Leave alone the disastrous economic consequences of that unlawful invasion. Libya has been made equally unstable, following NATO's deceitful intervention under the sham cover of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and the phoney principle of the responsibility to protect.

Mr. President,

Zimbabwe firmly believes in the peaceful settlement of disputes between and among States, in a manner that is consistent with the principles and purposes of the United Nations. In the maintenance of international peace and security, much more needs to be done to prevent conflicts from erupting in the first place, and to prevent relapses once a situation has been stabilized. Beyond deploying adequate resources to manage conflicts, it is important to address their underlying causes, and to pursue, more proactively, a comprehensive approach focusing on conflict prevention, peace-building, peace-sustenance and development. In pursuing this cause, my delegation strongly believes that adherence to the Charter of the United Nations should be a solemn obligation of all Member States.

Mr. President,

We have noticed, with deep regret, that the provisions of the United Nations Charter dealing with the peaceful settlement of disputes, have, on occasion, been ignored by the Security Council. In contrast, there appears to be an insatiable appetite for war, embargos, sanctions and other punitive actions, even on matters that are better resolved through multilateral cooperation. Instead of resorting to the peaceful resolution of disputes, we are daily witnessing a situation where might is now right. Mr President, we need to take stock of the inspiring preamble to the United Nations Charter, where the plenipotentiaries who met in San Francisco in 1945 undertook to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war." This is especially so when global events represent a radical departure from that solemn and noble declaration as is happening at present. What do the NATO Alliance members say about this? One may ask.

Mr. President,

It is therefore important that the United Nations Security Council should respect and support the decisions, processes and priorities of regional organisations. In contrast, recent events, as has already been stated particularly with reference to Africa, have demonstrated the scant regard that is given by the United Nations and certain powerful members of the international community to the pivotal role of regional organisations. Effective cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations will only become viable and sustainable when developed on the basis of mutual respect and support, as well as on shared responsibility and commitment.

Mr. President,

It is regrettable to note that certain unacceptable concepts are currently being foisted upon the United Nations membership, in the absence of inter-governmental mandates. For instance, there is no agreement yet on the concept of "responsibility to protect," especially with respect to the circumstances under which it might be evoked. We are concerned by the clear and growing evidence that the concept of "responsibility to protect" has begun to be applied and seriously abused, thus inevitably compromising and undermining the cardinal principle of the sovereignty of states and the United Nations Charter principles of territorial integrity and non-interference in the domestic affairs of countries.

Mr. President,

For the international community to successfully deal with global economic, social, security and environmental challenges, the existence of international institutions to handle them and a culture of genuine multilateralism are critical. The United Nations, its specialized agencies, and international financial institutions, are the only instruments available for responding effectively to the global challenges we face in this global village. It is therefore critical that these structures are reformed, and realigned in response to both global challenges and our contemporary realities, in order to better serve our collective interests.

Mr President,

This august Assembly is the most representative organ within the United Nations family. We must therefore dedicate ourselves to finding consensus on measures to revitalise it, so that it fulfills its mandate in accordance with the provisions of the Charter. We wish to reiterate our deep concern that the mandate, powers and jurisdiction of the General Assembly are shrinking as a consequence of the Security Council gradually encroaching upon the Assembly's areas of competence. This, in our view,

upsets the delicate balance envisaged under the Charter, and undermines the overall effectiveness of the United Nations system. The General Assembly must remain the main deliberative, policy-making organ of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

We have been seized with the debate on the reform of the Security Council for far too long. My delegation fully supports the current intergovernmental negotiations on the reform and expansion of the Security Council. However, we wish to caution against an open-ended approach which short-changes those of us from regions that are not represented at all among the permanent membership of the Council.

Zimbabwe stands by Africa's demand for two permanent seats complete with a veto, if the veto is to be retained, plus two additional non-permanent seats, as clearly articulated in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. For how long, Mr President, will the international community continue to ignore the aspirations of a whole continent of fifty-four countries? We shall not be bought-off with empty promises, nor shall we accept some cosmetic tinkering of the Security Council disguised as reform. It is indeed a travesty of justice that the African continent, which accounts for almost a third of the membership represented in this august Assembly, has no permanent representation in the Security Council. Is this good governance? Is this democracy? And, is this justice?

My delegation condemns unreservedly, the economic sanctions imposed against my country and people in an unjustified effort to deny them the chance to fully benefit from their natural resource endowment. We wish to remind those who have maintained sanctions against us that there is international consensus, fully supported by the Southern African Development Community, the African Union, the Non-Aligned Movement and the rest of the progressive international community, that these sanctions must immediately and unconditionally be lifted. Mr President, in the interest of justice, fairness and good relations, we call on those countries which have imposed sanctions against us to review their positions. Zimbabweans have suffered for too long under these completely illegal punitive measures.

Mr. President,

Allow me to conclude by reaffirming Zimbabwe's commitment to the principles that have brought us together in the United Nations for the last 67 years. My country is confident that in this inextricably interdependent world, our commitment to the common good, which this Organization embodies, will be resolute and enduring. Zimbabwe will continue to stand firm, and to condemn unilateralism, the imposition of unwarranted and illegal sanctions on nations, and the unwarranted extra-territorial application of national laws.

I thank you.

Inauguration speech (Aug. 23, 2013)

(text of this speech comes from [this website](#) and [this website](#). While some sources like *Slate*, *Eyewitness News* (South Africa), *Taki's Magazine*, *BBC News*, *Al-Jazeera English*, and *Pink News* (UK), among others, said that Mugabe criticized homosexuality in this speech, no references to it can be found in this speech, making it seem they conjured up words he said. The same occurred when they claimed he said gays were "worse than dogs and pigs" and the quotes came from *NewsDay*, a South

African publication negative toward Mugabe, with the only other evidence he said this coming from an “independent” news outlet called SABC)

Vice president Cde Joice Mujuru, Heads of State and Government, Former Heads of State and Government, Outgoing members of cabinet, Esteemed delegates representing various countries and organisations, Representatives of sister liberation movements and parties, Newly elected Members of Parliament, The Chief Justice and Members of the Judiciary, Senior Civil Servants, Representatives of War Veterans, Detainees, Restricttees and War collaborators, Representatives of the Business Community, Representatives of our Farming Community, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Representatives of the Civil Society, Student activists, Invited guests, Comrades and friends.

On behalf of the people of Zimbabwe, I wish to extend to you all a very warm welcome to this joyous occasion marking the end of our electoral processes, and the beginning of steps towards shaping a new administration which shall mind the affairs of our Nation for the next five years. In welcoming you, I am aware of the inconveniences you suffered from what really was a short notice to this event.

Our invitations reached you very late, forcing you to set aside equally pressing commitments you may have scheduled for the same time.

We apologise most profusely for this inconvenience created by certain Constitutional requirements that perforce precede the inauguration of the President-elect. We had to allow for petitions as required by our Supreme Law.

Yet it is this positive response to this short notice on your part which attests to the deep affinities between you and ourselves.

We are truly humbled and today our hearts are aglow with happiness which we readily share with you on this joyous occasion.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades and Friends,

The just-ended harmonised polls whose high point we now gathered to celebrate, do mark and usher in a new Constitutional dispensation for our country, Zimbabwe. This poll is the first we have held under a new home-grown Constitution which has replaced that which we negotiated at Lancaster House with our erstwhile colonial masters, the British, in 1979.

While the Lancaster House Constitution served us well as we moved from war to peace, from a settler colonial administration to black African self-rule, the passage of time and the sheer weight of emerging issues progressively made the document rather too old.

We thus had to work on a new Constitution. Consequently, we sat together as a united people and produced a draft document that was subsequently endorsed by the majority of our people through a well-subscribed Referendum we held early this year.

True, today’s event marks the inauguration of the President, but it is also a celebration of our new Charter which shall guide our society for the foreseeable future.

A key feature of this Constitution is its blending of first-past-the post electoral approach and proportional representation.

Elections for Presidency, for the Lower House or House of Assembly, and for Local Government are managed under first-past-the post principle, while membership of the Upper House or the Senate is drawn up on the basis of proportional representation based on votes garnered by each vying party, while recognising the Constitutional need for gender parity.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, comrades and Friends,

I have no doubt that the days of our elections were quite engrossing, if not, nail-biting to some of you. The undue politicisation and publicity of our polling processes, the ominous auguries that stalked those harmonised polls, could have made you fear for us, indeed may have triggered deep anxieties regarding our prospects here. Routinely we were imaged as a society at war, a society riven by conflict.

After all, the preceding elections of 2008 had been disputed on allegations of violence, itself a fertile backdrop to these rumours of war. Since that disputed poll, Zimbabwe had hung on an uneasy peace, indeed had tenuously held together on a fraught coalition, an inclusive Government of three uneasy partners.

Genuine friends feared that the five uneasy years during which the coalition had survived — barely — would soon see Zimbabwe to this violent patch which had slurred its electoral honour. Our enemies and detractors sought to goad us toward such a self-destructive path.

Happily, this negative augury, this hell-fire vision of Zimbabwe and its electoral prospects now stands confounded by the durable peace that reigns over this land.

We have had peaceful elections. We have had free elections. We have had fair elections, with our Constitution allowing for any challenges from whomsoever.

Well done Zimbabwe! We pledge to ensure that the peace we have built endures. And that the attainment of that peace we pay unstinting tribute to all our people who accepted the exhortations to peace from us all, who practiced and radiated it reciprocally in their immediate neighbourhoods. The result was local peace which built towards and fed into perfect national peace.

I want to pay tribute to my partners in the Global Political Agreement for joining hands in these peace-building efforts. Equally, I salute church and community leaders who prayed for it, demonstrated it through personal example.

I have no doubt that I continue to count on them all for durable peace that subsists for all times.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades and Friends,

Except for a few Western dishonest countries, our elections have been hailed as peaceful, free, fair and credible. Sadc, Comesa, the African Union, the ACP, the United Nations as well as many nations of good will have praised our elections here. We welcome this positive spirit, this encouragement which should see us do even better, move forward faster as a nation.

But like in all elections, there will always be bad losers, real spoilers. It is a part-price we pay for electoral democracy, indeed an inevitable phase in our growth as a people wedded to democratic practices. Where such a grouching stance remains non-antagonistic, where it expresses itself within the four corners of the law, it must be tolerated as part of the democratic tussle, part of the post-electoral adjustment.

As of those odd Western countries who happen to hold a different, negative view of our electoral process and outcome, well, there is not much we can do about them. We dismiss them as the vile ones whose moral turpitude we must mourn.

They are entitled to their views, for as long as they recognise the majority of our people endorsed the electoral outcome, indeed for as long as they recognise that no Zimbabwean law was offended against. And for us that is all that matters. After all, Zimbabwean elections are meant for Zimbabwe's voting citizens.

After all, Zimbabwean democracy is meant for the people of Zimbabwe who must, within set periods, go to the polls to choose and install a government of their choice. It is their sole prerogative and no outsider, however superior or powerful they imagine themselves to be, can override that right, let alone take it away from them.

It is our inherent right. We fought for it when it was lost. We won it through our own blood. We keep it for us and posterity; we reserve forever as an expression of our sovereignty as a free people.

Today we tell those dissenting nations that the days of colonialism and neo-colonialism are gone, and gone forever. The era of white colonial "whispers behind the African throne" passed on and got buried together with Lord Laggard the author of this anti-African, neo-colonial notion.

Having struggled for our independence our fate has irrevocably orbited out of colonial relations, indeed can no longer subsist in curtsying and bowing to any foreign government, however powerful it feigns itself to be and whatever filthy lucre it flaunts.

We belong to Africa. We follow African values here. We follow our conscience. We abide by the judgment of Africa as indeed, we did in 2008 when Africa advised us to set aside results of the disputed elections.

Today it is Britain, and her dominions of Australia and Canada who dare tell us our elections were not fair and credible. Today it is America and her illegal sanctions which dare raise a censorious voice over our affairs. Yes, today it is these Anglo-Saxons who dare contradict Africa's verdict over an election in Zimbabwe, an African country.

Who are they, we ask? Who gave the gift of seeing better than all of us?

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades and Friends,

With the elections now behind us, we can now focus on rebuilding our nation which has been ravaged by illegal sanctions imposed on us by the West. If yesterday the pretext for imposing those sanctions

was to do with a deficit of democracy here, today we ask those culprit nations what their excuse is now?

Whose interest are those sanctions serving? Zimbabwe is an open, friendly country. We seek friendship across geographies, across cultures, and quite often against past wrongs. We seek partnerships with all nations of goodwill, but partnerships based on sovereign, equality and mutual respect.

Those are the sacred principles that upon which the global architecture, as defined by the United Nations, is founded.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades and Friends,

Elections here were fought over the question of sovereignty gained in 1980 after a grueling armed liberation struggle. Today the flag of that sovereignty flutters gaily in the winds of our spring. We sing our national anthem, itself a compendium of all that we aspire for, with full-throated ease.

We have a government through which we define policies, itself the prime agent for implementing those same policies. That government reigns over our territory, its authority firmly felt to the remotest corner of our territory. We have sought the political kingdom, we have found it.

But much remains to be done before we assume full sovereignty, well beyond the owning of politics, indeed beyond symbols and rituals of independence. Our resources have not yet fully come. Yes, we regained control over our land and our people are happy.

Today they revel in the ownership of that land which has now come. They are beginning to use it profitably, using it for durable wherewithal. They have become key players in agriculture, proving that they are as good farmers as any in the world, once they have access to key inputs. It has been a key milestone.

But our dominion goes beyond land. It extends to all those resources found in and on our territory, including those lying beneath our land, principally minerals.

And nature has been generous, prodigal in fact, granting us oversized portions of almost all minerals that matter on earth. It has been a generous serve. The time has come for us to extend our dominion to all those resources which the Almighty has been so generous enough to give. That is the next revolution whose first step is this administration, this new Government.

I stand before you as now a sworn President of Zimbabwe. My mandate comes from the just ended election which my party won resoundingly. But there are key truths that come with that victory, which come with that honour.

The peasant who cast his vote on July 31, created my victory and thus made a portion of my Presidency, I am at his service, and his emissary and servant. He or she did not cast that precious vote in vain, did not repose it in us without expectations of a good, deserved return.

Similarly, the unemployed youth who cast his vote did so amidst great expectations. He, too, moulded my Presidency. He, too, claims it. It must work for him, deliver to him. The woman — that larger half of mankind voted for me V a man! She has deep hopes that must be fulfilled!

The businessperson, he or she too, voted for me, contributing a limb to my Presidency. He or she has definite expectations founded on his or her role in society as a creator of wealth.

The farmer — small, medium, big — voted for my party, thereby assigning my Presidency. His vote was his input; he must now turn the soil, broadcast seed in the hope of plenty. I am the instrument of his dream. The self-employed, that small man and woman always struggling on the margins of the formal economy, he or she, too, has expectations, great expectations at that.

So, too, are those who did not vote me, those who voted for other parties. They have hopes and expectations which must reside and repose in my Presidency.

As we move into the future, our work as a nation is cut out for us. Although God may favour us, not all men do. We have been under sanctions for a decade and three years. Most likely we shall remain under these sanctions for much longer. But we have held our own. Our will has been our principal resource. We have to raise ourselves by our bootstraps. Let me share with you my vision for the future, lay out for you the work that must be done.

Foremost, we must always believe in ourselves by turning to our own resources. Luckily they exist in fair abundance. The mining sector will be the centrepiece of our economic recovery and growth. It should generate growth spurts across sectors, reignite that economic miracle which must now happen.

The sector has shown enormous potential, but we are far from seeing its optimum. We have barely scratched our worth, even in the sense of merely bringing above ground what we already know to be embedded in our rich soils. We need to intensify the exploitation of existing deposits. More mineral deposits remain unknown, unexplored. We need to explore new deposits, developing new greenfield projects in the mining sector.

Above all, we need to move purposefully towards beneficiation of our raw minerals. The scope is great and I call upon you all to summon your full will, to give your utmost. That is what will empower us, develop us, indeed create employment for our people.

As we go about reorganising this critical sector, our policy reflexes must be oriented towards the goals of indigenisation and economic empowerment of our people. This was the centrepiece of our manifesto. This is what the people voted for. It must become the centrepiece of our development endeavours.

We dare not let our people down. We are aware that people of ill-will have cast aspersions on our hallowed policy of indigenisation and economic empowerment. Well, it is a set policy, our chosen path to full sovereignty.

The premise of what policy is an easy one. Our minerals are a depletable resource. We cannot grow them again once they have been exploited. Consequently, we cannot be bystanders in their exploitation. We need a share, a controlling share in all ventures that exploit our non-renewable natural resources. Where we can, we can go it alone. Where we cannot do so, we seek partners on a 51/49 percent shareholding principle. Genuine partners should find this acceptable.

We reject totally as skewed the economic principle which puts capital, technology or expertise before natural resources. It is a principle of imperialism, the source of unequal agreements which have been the bane of our ever exploited Africa. That is our reckoning here and we stand by it.

Unequal agreements are unacceptable; they reek of colonial and neo-colonial relations. But where an investor brings in his or her capital, technology, expertise and raw materials, we will not insist on the principle!

The five years of the inclusive Government have seen a slowdown in agriculture. Our farmers — big and small — have gone without the support of Government. They have not been assisted in accessing inputs and capital from banks. Except for tobacco which has been funded by the private sector, food agriculture which tended to lean on Government support declined.

Yet agriculture remains the mainstay of our economy, the source of raw materials for our manufacturing sector. We must become a food secure nation, and that means sensible agriculture policies that recognise support to the farmer by way of inputs. No nation on earth does without such support.

The new Cabinet will be expected to move with full speed in mobilising adequate inputs. Equally, issues around electricity and irrigation must be tackled definitively so that this season marks a return to food sufficiency, and anticipates an active winter season which should see us growing part of our wheat requirements again.

After all, agriculture provides livelihoods and direct employment to thousands of our people. There are pressing social service challenges which must be tackled immediately. Taps are dry in most of our cities and towns, worse so in Bulawayo. Water must be restored; taps must run again. The search for durable solutions to water supply for our towns and cities must begin almost immediately with the announcement of a new Cabinet.

We cannot have erratic water supply in urban conurbations without risking outbreaks of serious diseases. And of course our hospitals, clinics and dispensaries must be well equipped for health delivery.

Often our clinics have run out of essential drugs, vital pieces of equipment and accessories. Rural areas have been hit hardest. That area must be stabilised as a matter of urgency.

Another key area of urgent attention has to do with infrastructure. Happily we had already begun working on our road networks, with many rehabilitation projects in the offing. These must be expedited so mobility of people, goods and services is expedited. The same also passes for other modes of transport.

The road maintenance equipment which the responsible Ministry has been acquiring for rural development agencies should see us maintaining feeder roads in anticipation of the agricultural sector and other economic activities. It is gratifying to note that the community share ownership programmes have also played their part in hastening community development.

A key facet of infrastructural development shall relate to water provision and sanitation, especially in rural areas.

Equally, the supply of electricity must be stabilised both for the sake of our domestic users and for the sake of agriculture, industry and commerce.

We have key power projects which are about to take off, and which, if completed, should augment internal power generation. All these are key enablers which must now kick in. There are many financing models which the new Government will explore, including public-private-partnership on the strength of which some projects have moved.

When all is said and done, our financial system or policy will need to be examined including the banking institutions and their supporting role to industry. Partly as a result of sanctions and partly because of regional manufacturing and trade dynamics, Zimbabwe has declined as a regional manufacturing centre.

We are fast turning into one huge warehouse, a dumping ground for all manner of imports. Our cities and towns are dying. Bulawayo, for a long time the industrial capital of Zimbabwe, has now become a sorry industrial scrap-yard. And this has been an indicative trend for all manufacturing centres in the country.

We have become a net importer of finished goods, while also being a net exporter of raw materials. Even our cotton industry, for a very long time an area of comparative advantage, has collapsed, with it many small cotton growers. This has become a structural handicap which we must tackle head on, and urgently too. Plans to resuscitate our ailing industries never took off largely because of internal contradictions during the era of the inclusive Government.

That era is gone and we must now move purposefully.

Internationally and diplomatically we remain friendly and well disposed towards all nations. We seek friendships. We seek partnerships. We seek to diversify our relations to encompass new, emerging regions of the world. Principally; we continue to look East, hoping all those countries which had held back on fears of our unsettled situation here can now move forward to partner with us on clear parameters laid out in our policies.

We seek peace; we work for peace and exhort the rest of the world to do likewise.

We do not brook any form of interference in the internal affairs of other nations. A strong sense of right must always temper might. As our own case demonstrated, often it is local solutions which work best in curing problems that may rise within and between nations.

The current Western policy of sponsoring conflict in the Middle East must be condemned.

As the desperate situation in Syria has shown, such a policy brings enormous grief to affected nations. We watch helplessly as small nations get wrecked by high-handed nations. We hold deep fears for Egypt, that great African country. We hope that peace can return to it soon, and hold for all time. In concluding, I want to thank countries of Africa, both singly and organised as sub-regions. In particular I thank Sadc and AU for standing with us during our difficulties. I thank the sister Republic of South Africa, I thank its leadership which, in succession, played the difficult role of facilitating political dialogue and settlement in our country.

It was a trying task but the two men burdened with that role, firstly, former president Thabo Mbeki who is here with us, and later President Jacob Zuma bore it all with amazing patience and perseverance. I am sure today is a happy day for both men. They can walk tall in full knowledge that they have signed off a rare but glorious chapter on African solutions to African problems! Siyalibonga sonke! Lastly, I owe nothing but praise and respect to my GPA-era partners who are also my fellow countrymen.

I am referring to former Prime Minister Morgan Richard Tsvangirai, former Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara and, much later, Professor Welshman Ncube.

We have worked together. Initially compelled by GPA protocols, we eventually found each other and proceeded to produce the current Constitution.

This is our land, our country together and for as long as our nations subsist, so will elections and the opportunities they offer.

Our common destiny bids us to work together, never at cross purposes.

More important, that destiny bids us to work for the well-being and in defence of our people who must always come first. I thank you all! I thank you Zimbabweans of all tribal cultures, of all religious and political affiliations, thank you traditional Chiefs, thank you all civil servants, all students, all social groups, all youths, mothers and fathers, well done.

Ndinotenda! Ngiyabonga! Zikomo kwambiri, Asante sana!

I thank you!

Speech to the UN General Assembly (Sept. 26, 2013)

(text of this speech comes from [this PDF](#), [this website](#) and [this website](#))

Your Excellency, the President of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. John William Ashe,
Your Majesties,
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
Your Excellency, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon,
Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Comrades and Friends

Let me begin by extending warmest congratulations to you Mr. John William Ashe, on your election as President of the 68th Session of the General Assembly. Your election to this esteemed office is a befitting tribute to the personal and diplomatic qualities that you have exhibited over the years.

Mr. President,

Throughout the world, peace and development have remained the dominant themes of our times. People all over the world have been raising their voices in favour of peace, development and cooperation and against war, poverty and confrontation. Here at the UN we all acknowledge that peace, security, development and human rights are the pillars of the UN system and the cornerstones of our collective well-being.

In this regard, the theme for this Session – The Post-2015 Agenda : Setting the Stage – is quite pertinent and timely as it gives fresh impetus to our undertaking that achieving the internationally agreed Development Goals, including the MDGs and mapping the way forward beyond 2015, requires our collective efforts. The UN, as the centre for international cooperation, should lead in promoting the envisaged development.

Mr. President,

Thirteen years ago, our global efforts were mobilised behind the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and we now have less than 1,000 days to meet those targets. Our review and stock taking exercise reveal that while there have been some significant achievements, there are still gaps and unevenness in the attainment of these goals. In the case of Zimbabwe, we have made progress towards achieving universal access to primary education, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB. Some of the goals, however, are, due to lack of capacity, mainly financial, off track and in some areas, progress has stalled including in those areas relating to the eradication of poverty and hunger, child mortality, universal access to maternal and reproductive health, environmental sustainability and access to potable water and sanitation.

As a country, we are committed to undertake coordinated efforts to accelerate progress to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs in the remaining period to 2015. Any unachieved goals by then, should be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. President,

Zimbabwe fully shares and supports the emerging consensus that eradicating poverty in all its dimensions should be the overarching goal of our post 2015 agenda. Eradicating poverty by 2030 may be an ambitious goal, but it is attainable if we mobilise our collective efforts. Building on the foundation of the MDGs, the post 2015 agenda should go beyond the social development agenda of the MDGs and achieve structural transformation in our economies that delivers inclusive and sustainable growth.

We expect a shift that will bring about industrialisation, decent jobs and qualitative change to the lives of our citizens. We are determined to modernise our infrastructure and ensure access to sustainable energy for all, food security and nutrition. However, we recognise that we cannot do this in isolation from other partners.

In the same vein, we also support calls to prioritise gender equality, the health related MDGs, education and environmental sustainability in the post-2015 development agenda among other issues. These are critical issues in our quest to achieve sustainable development for all our people.

Mr. President,

The lofty objectives of the UN Charter in the economic arena will remain unfulfilled unless all Member States join in efforts genuinely and seriously, to address challenges that developing countries face in their pursuit of development including meeting the MDGs.

It is therefore imperative that our discussions address what has so far been the weakest link – the means of implementation. It must be understood that in addition to national efforts, substantial international support and an enabling international economic environment are essential if the MDGs are to be achieved by 2015 especially in Africa. It is therefore important to fulfill the commitments made to support Africa in various international fora. The UN should track the fulfillment of these commitments.

Mr. President,

Zimbabwe supports the reform of the UN to strengthen its central role in promoting multilateralism and to be effective in tackling current and future global challenges. We are convinced that the reform will strengthen the organisation's capacity to fully promote and implement the principles and objectives of the UN Charter and improve its democratic decision making.

In this regard, the reforms in the economic and social actions of the UN remain of fundamental importance to us. Our firm belief in multilateral cooperation means that we place a premium in the ability of the United Nations system to deliver efficient development co-operation.

The democratic transformation of the architecture of the international financial system is quintessential as is a root-and-branch reform of the international trading system. The terms of trade have hugely burdened developing countries for too long.

Mr. President,

Zimbabwe supports the ongoing efforts to revitalize the General Assembly which is the most representative organ of the United Nations. We believe that the General Assembly should take the lead in setting the global agenda and restore its primacy that has over the years been encroached upon by other organs.

We cannot accept situations whereby the UN Security Council is increasingly encroaching on issues that traditionally fall within the General Assembly's purview and competence, including in the area of norm setting.

Indeed, recent events have revealed that its formal decisions have provided camouflage to neo-imperialist forces of aggression seeking to militarily intervene in smaller countries in order to effect regime change and acquire complete control of their wealth. This was so in Libya where in the name of protecting civilians, NATO forces were deployed with an undeclared mission to eliminate Muammar Gaddafi and his family. A similar campaign had been undertaken in Iraq by the Bush and Blair forces in the false name of eradicating weapons of mass destruction which Saddam Hussein never possessed.

We appreciate the central role that UN should play in furthering multilateralism in preference to unilateralism. In this regard, we applaud the consultations and negotiations on the eventual destruction of the chemical weapons in Syria. My country expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Russia and China for their principled stand on Syria. We hope and trust that the Syrian people will soon sit in dialogue to discuss peace and desirable political reforms. Those western countries in pursuit of hegemony as they pretend to be advocates of democracy must be resisted.

Mr. President,

For Africa, the reform of the United Nations Security Council is especially long overdue. The anachronistic and unrepresentative character of the Security Council must be redressed. For how long should Africa continue to be denied the right to play a pivotal role in the United Nations Security Council as it decides measures on conflicts within its own borders?

The Security Council needs to be more representative, democratic, transparent, accountable and accessible to the wider membership for its decisions to have more legitimacy. Africa's case for the correction of the glaring historical injustice of being unrepresented in the permanent category and under-represented in the non-permanent category has been made through the clear, fair and well-articulated Ezulwini Consensus. Zimbabwe remains steadfast in its support of the Ezulwini demand.

Mr. President,

Zimbabwe strongly condemns the use of unilateral economic sanctions as a foreign policy tool to effect regime change. Thus, the illegal economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by the United States and the European Union violate fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter on state sovereignty and non-interference in the domestic affairs of a sovereign state.

Moreover, these illegal sanctions continue to inflict economic deprivation and human suffering on all Zimbabweans. In the eyes of our people, the sanctions constitute a form of hostility and violence against them for the simple crime of undertaking the land reform programme by which land was put in the hands of the then majority landless Zimbabweans.

Our small and peaceful country is threatened daily by covetous and bigoted big powers whose hunger for domination and control of other nations and their resources knows no bounds. Shame, shame, shame to the United States of America. Shame, shame, shame to Britain and its allies. Zimbabwe is for Zimbabweans, so are its resources. Please remove your illegal and filthy sanctions from my peaceful country. If these sanctions were intended to effect regime change, well, the results of the recent national elections have clearly shown you what they can do.

Mr. President,

We are preached to daily by the west on the virtues of democracy and freedom which they do not totally espouse. Zimbabwe took up arms precisely to achieve our freedom and democracy. Yet we have been punished by United States through the odious Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act enacted in 2001 to effect regime change in the country.

Now, this malicious intent to continue the relentless persecution of our small and peaceful country has happened again through the USA's rejection of the recent absolutely democratic and fair election results of our July 31st general elections, even as they were applauded by the African Union and all our regional organisations.

It appears that when the USA and its allies speak of democracy and freedom they are doing so only in relative terms. Zimbabwe however refuses to accept that these western detractors have the right to define democracy and freedom for us. We paid the ultimate price for it and we are determined never to relinquish our sovereignty and remain masters of our destiny. As we have repeatedly asserted, Zimbabwe will never be a colony again!!

I thank you.

Speech at the Joshua Nkomo Airport (Dec. 2013)

(text of this speech comes from [this website](#))

It is my singular honour and privileged to officiate at this historic event, the commissioning of the Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo Airport, befittingly coinciding with our National Unity Day.

As you may recall, in 2002, Government took the decision to rename the Bulawayo Airport after the late Mdala Wethu Joshua Mqabuko Nyongolo Nkomo. This was in recognition of the late Vice President's immense contribution, not only to our liberation struggle, but also to the social and economic development of independent Zimbabwe.

Then, we decided that the airport infrastructure and services and would be upgraded, to match the status of Zimbabwe's second largest city.

Pursuant to the above, in 2003, a ground-breaking ceremony, led by the late Vice President Msika, was held at this site, signalling the beginning of a project which has, regrettably, taken a decade to complete.

Initially pencilled to be completed within a space of just two years, this project, unfortunately, was bedevilled by many challenges. It was caught in the era of hyper-inflation, characterized by an acute shortage of foreign currency and materials. Yes, it is one of those projects severely affected by illegal sanctions imposed on us by Britain and her western allies after we embarked on our Land Reform Programme. How could we not claim back our land, the land which Umdala Wethu had fought for, for most of his life?

As we celebrate the commissioning of this magnificent project, we must also celebrate the victory of the gallant sons and daughters of Zimbabwe over colonialism. Today, I am proud to commission a new look, complete and operational terminal airport building, now part of the Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo International Airport.

My Government always acknowledges the important role played by air transport in promoting and facilitating national economic development, mainly through tourism, trade, investment and business travel. For this reason, at independence, Zimbabwe became a signatory to the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation. The convention ensures that our aviation sector is developed and managed according to international standards.

In pursuit of maintaining and complying with international standards, Government, in 1999, transformed the then department of civic aviation into an autonomous Civil Aviation Authority. This resulted in the country attaining compliance with international aviation safety and security requirements. In this regard, I note with much satisfaction that Zimbabwe has since continued to improve its security requirements.

My Government has also taken major steps to support the aviation sector. For example, the Victoria Falls terminal was renovated to facilitate the hosting of the Commonwealth Heads Government Meeting (CHOGM), while Government provided the resources for the major modernization of the airspace management systems.

The construction of the catering uplift facility at Harare International Airport was established in 1992, and the construction of the Harare Airport International Terminal Building was completed in 2000. During this year's UNWTO, the Victoria Falls Airport, Zimbabwe's tourists hub, received extension and improvements of its terminal building.

Ladies and gentlemen, the completion of the Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo Airport is one of the quick wins of our new economic blue print, Zim Asset. As we celebrate Unity Day today, we are at the same time also celebrating yet another milestone towards the fulfillment of our economic blueprint.

I urge the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development to urgently complete the remaining phases of this project and, they then should move on to develop other airports at Kariba, Buffalo Range and Mutare.

Comrades and friends, in order to improve the quality of services in the civil aviation sector, Government is set to separate regulator functions from commercial operations of the Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe. This should not only enhance safety and security compliance, but will also entice the private sector participation in airport operations.

The relevant Bill should be brought to the current session of the Parliament for consideration. My Government has also continued to support the aviation sector by establishing air links with other states. To this end, Zimbabwe has to date concluded bilateral air service agreements with 47 countries.

I urge the relevant Ministry to explore other areas of cooperation in this sector and proceed to open connectivity with non-traditional emerging markets. In so doing there is need for close collaboration between the civil aviation authorities and tourism promotion authorities.

In order to ensure that our airports are optimally utilised, I urge the relevant Ministries to aggressively market Air Zimbabwe. One of the long term solutions should be found in recapitalising Air Zimbabwe. In marketing itself, the Ministry must seriously consider inviting other airlines to open their routes schedule with Bulawayo.

In addition Government will prioritise Bulawayo in its efforts to revive the city's industry. In this regard, I want to put on record Government's determination to ensure that Bulawayo is resuscitated. The city must reaffirm its position as an industrial hub and Zimbabwe second largest city.

Finally, I am satisfied that the Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo Airport we have just commissioned should be a constant reminder to us of the sacrifices made and good work performed by Umdala Wethu during our liberation struggle and after we attained our independence.

Comrade and friends, it is now my pleasure to declare the Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo Airport terminal building officially opened.

Speech to commemorate the Joshua Nkomo statue (Dec. 2013)

(text of this speech comes from [this website](#))

Today, the 22nd of December, Zimbabwe celebrates 26 years of the signing of the Unity Accord. The accord cemented the unity of the two liberation movements that had gallantly fought side by side to liberate Zimbabwe.

The unity between the two liberation movements, long anticipated, finally materialised when the two signatories of the liberation of the two liberation parties, Zanu and Zapu, Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo signed the Unity Accord on the 22nd December 1987.

I feel singularly honoured, therefore, as one the Unity Accord signatories, to be unveiling the statue of the other signatory, Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo, my co-partner in the Unity Accord which assured unity and peace in Zimbabwe.

The unveiling of the statue is immediately followed by the renaming of the Main Street after Dr Joshua Nkomo as well. As we commemorate this Unity Day, we do so to particularly remember the many key roles that Dr Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo played in fighting for this country's independence.

His clear vision and leadership were invaluable in shaping the new Zimbabwe, Umdala Wethu, Chibwechitedza, Mwana Wevhu, a true son of the soil.

Dr Joshua Nkomo was from a very early age involved in trade unionism. From the very beginning he was at the very centre of nationalist politics that ultimately culminated in the formation of Zipra and Zanla.

These are the liberation movements whose armed confrontation against the Smith regime resulted in the birth of the Zimbabwe we cherish today.

Like our ancestors before us, who had joined hands to liberate themselves by waging the First Chimurenga, the Second Chimurenga, of Zanu and Zapu, jointly fought the colonial system.

The Second Chimurenga was heavily inspired by the First Chimurenga, hence our constant references during the liberation struggle, to the legendary Mbuya Nehanda, Mukwati, Sekuru Kaguvi, King Lobengula and many other heroes of the First Chimurenga. Heroes of First Chimurenga gave our generation inspiration, and the determination to take up arms and fight our oppressors.

At independence, Dr Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo was in the forefront of building a new Zimbabwe which was guided by the spirit of reconciliation. A just and democratic Zimbabwe, what we had all fought for, was always at the heart of Zimbabwe.

The statue we are gathered here to officially unveil and the street we have renamed, are the real story of Zimbabwe and Zimbabweans, our struggles and our aspirations as a people.

That story is embodied in the person of Dr Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo. Both the statue and the renamed street commemorate and are a tribute to Dr Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo, for his leadership, his dedication and his ability to understand and translate the aspirations of Zimbabweans.

During his life, he pursued many national roles, before and after independence. The statue and renamed street reconnect us with Umdala Wethu.

They are a collective reminder that this country was not given on a silver platter. We fought a bitter armed struggle to get back our country. Never should we forget that. Taking back the land would be one sure way of making Umdala Wethu roll with joy in his grave!

The man whose statue we are unveiling today has always had the land issue at his heart. He was “Mwana Wewhu”, son of the soil. Umdala Wethu’s deathbed message remains vivid to me, to this day. He told me to continue the land reform programme and maintain the unity of the people.

The statue, a national monument, is therefore, part of the national heritage of Zimbabwe which embodies the national values and aspirations of Zimbabweans. The statue and the renamed street allow us to continuously reflect on where we stand as a nation, also to introspect on what we are doing, as people, vis-à-vis what Dr Joshua Nkomo stood for.

I take this opportunity, to thank all the people through whose combined effort, art, sculpture and architecture, contributed to the construction of the statue that we unveil today.

We note that an earlier attempt had not satisfied us that the statue was an accurate representation of the Joshua Nkomo that we know, a man of the people, a man that we honour and respect, a man who knew no tribalism nor regionalism. He was indeed immersed in unity.

As I now officially unveil this statue and rename this street, it is my expectation that we all view the two events and things as sources of inspiration, courage, unity of purpose and a national reference point for Zimbabweans as they continue to build and make a better Zimbabwe for present and future generations.

I declare this national monument unveiled and the street renamed accordingly.

I thank you.

Speech at 34th Independence Day Celebrations in Harare (Apr. 19, 2014)

(text of speech comes from [here](#))

Makorokoto! Amhlope! Congratulations!

Today, as we celebrate this happy and joyous birthday as a Nation, we should hold dear the sacrifices that our people had to endure in order to dislodge the cruel settler colonial regime that was bent on oppressing and suppressing our people in order to freely plunder our God-given natural resources.

I, therefore, wish to thank the people of Zimbabwe, for standing steadfast and resolute, not only in defence of our hard-won freedom, but also in supporting the pursuit of our country's socio-economic development. The sacred values of patriotism, hard work, dedication to duty and the abiding spirit to serve one's country and its people, are virtues that must continue to propel this great nation.

Today, fellow Zimbabweans, we also have cause to celebrate this special occasion as the first Independence anniversary after Zimbabwe successfully held the July 31st harmonised elections under our home-grown Constitution. Allow me, at this juncture, to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to you all, for the trust and confidence you continue to bestow on me personally, and in my party Zanu-PF.

I wish to urge all Zimbabweans to remain united as a people, always remembering that, as Zimbabweans, we have a common destiny, as sons and daughters of the soil.

We must, this year, thank Almighty God for blessing us with very good rains. Most parts of the country are promising good harvests and pasture for our livestock, thereby guaranteeing us food security, and reducing the burden of food imports.

Sadly, I have to observe that some parts of the country experienced floods during the 2013/2014 agricultural season. The floods were mainly experienced in Chivi and Tsholotsho districts.

As 6,393 households were affected, Government declared a state of national disaster to allow the emergency evacuation of people, livestock and other assets from the affected areas. In collaboration with the corporate sector and other development partners, Government was able to provide relief to the affected families. We, therefore, wish to acknowledge and thank all those who assisted.

In pursuit of our country's development, Government has developed and begun to implement the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation, Zim-Asset.

Zim-Asset seeks to provide simultaneously an enabling investment climate, a growing economy, and an empowered society.

The agriculture sector, which in 2013 grew by 5,1 percent, is projected to grow by up to nine percent in 2014. The positive growth is mainly attributed to the good rains received countrywide in the 2013/14 farming season and the timeous availing of inputs to our farming community.

Government disbursed \$72,5 million worth of agricultural inputs which benefited at least 1,6 million households.

Zimbabwe's manufacturing sector continues to experience various challenges, chief among them is the liquidity crunch and the widening trade deficit.

The country is also experiencing a rapid de-industrialisation process, which is a clear sign of unhealthy financial situation. The country's trade balance shows that we are importing more goods and services than we are exporting. This is one of our main liquidity challenges.

Government should actively work to promote the export of value-added commodities, but at the same time discourage the importation of goods that are readily available on the local markets. This should, hopefully, reduce the trade imbalance.

Being the country's fastest growing sector, mining is Zimbabwe's leading foreign exchange earner, accounting for over 50 percent of total exports, while it ensures the country's accelerated economic growth and development.

Government is, however, reorganising the mining sector so as to make it more efficient and more transparent. To this end, much focus is also being placed on mining exploration, pursuing value addition and establishing refining processes of mainly gold, platinum, diamond, iron, chrome and nickel.

The 20th Session of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation, declared the best-attended in the history of the organisation, was co-hosted by Zimbabwe and Zambia in August 2013. It provided an invaluable opportunity for Zimbabwe to showcase its unique, rich and diverse natural heritage, and that Zimbabweans are a peace-loving, hospitable, enterprising and progressive people.

Zimbabwe, which has begun to implement key decisions that emanated from the General Assembly, has embarked on a pilot UNI-VISA project with Zambia. When complete, the process will be cascaded to other countries that are part of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area in a quest to optimise the seamless cross-border movement of tourists.

In its quest to restore solid and comprehensive infrastructure, a key enabler of various economic development, government is prioritising electricity generation assets to full capacity. To this end, the government has committed financial resources towards the rehabilitation and maintenance of existing power infrastructure in order to achieve optimal performance.

This has seen the country's power stations increasing output to averages of 600 megawatts for Hwange Power Station, 750 megawatts for Kariba Power Station, and 100 megawatts for the small thermal power stations of Harare, Bulawayo and Munyati.

Rehabilitation of the grid is also in progress, with major equipment such as transformers and switch gears, being replaced or renewed. Distribution power lines and cables are also in the process of being replaced.

More thermal and solar power programmes are currently being discussed.

As a long term measure, having secured a sum of US\$319,5 million loan facility from Chinese Eximbank, Government has embarked on the Kariba South Power Station Expansion Project, scheduled to be commissioned in 2017, the project will see an increase in the power generation by an additional 300 Megawatts.

Additional to the expansion of Hwange Power Station and the Batoka George, the electrification of rural areas is continuing, with an average of 400 rural institutions being electrified every year.

Government is also committed to the provision of biogas, mini-hydro and solar clean energy sources, which will go a long way in alleviating some of the power shortages currently experienced.

While successful projects, including JN Nkomo Airport, Victoria Falls Airport, the Buffalo Range Airport have either been completed, or are near completion, the condition of the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ)'s infrastructure continues to pose serious challenges to the smooth movement of goods and passengers. More concerted efforts are, therefore, envisaged to comprehensively address the requirements of the rail sector.

In collaboration with its development partners, Government is working towards the improvement of water supply and the disposal of waste water in our cities and towns.

Under the Urgent Water Supply and Sanitation Project (ZimFund) first phase, a sum of US\$43,6 million has been allocated. This facility should improve the water supply and sanitation situation in Harare, Chitungwiza, Mutare, Masvingo, Kwekwe and Chegutu.

The second phase, launched in March 2014, will rope in Ruwa and Redcliff to Harare and Chitungwiza. In addition, 14 small towns' water supplies and waste water treatment plants are also being rehabilitated.

Some 10 000 existing boreholes are being rehabilitated, 1 500 new boreholes drilled, 1 000 toilets and 30 piped water schemes constructed.

Government continues promoting tree planting, that has seen some 9,8 million trees being planted during the current rainy season, a project driven significantly by the Tobacco Wood Energy Programme.

To ensure the availability of tree seedlings, Government has produced more than 10 million tree seedlings, targeted towards planting activities, which are aimed at the reversal of escalating deforestation.

National environmental awareness programmes, including the National Tree Planting Day, World Wetlands Day, World Wildlife Day and the Africa Environment Day, have become permanent calendar events that constantly raise our citizens' awareness of environmental issues of deforestation, wetlands, land degradation, and wildlife poaching.

Government is establishing Community Information Centres (CISs) throughout the country, which will have Internet surfing, photocopying, photo printing, scanning, training and recreational facilities.

CICs, a means to use the benefits of Information Communication Technology, is aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of our rural people, and the inculcation of ICT skills, in both learners and teachers.

In addition to the provision of quality education, which we continue to be proud of in Africa and the rest of the world, we should now focus on the provision of the psycho-motor skills and mathematics and sciences that promote technology and innovation.

As Government continues to support the development of sports, arts and culture, in 2013 Zimbabwe assumed the chairmanship of the African Union Sport Council Region 5, and will be hosting ten countries of the under-20 Youth Games to be held in Bulawayo, from December 5 to 14, 2014.

The implementation of the indigenisation and economic empowerment policy, is going on through various programmes including the Community Share Ownership Trusts and Employee Share Ownership Trusts.

Following the establishment of 61 Community Share Ownership Trusts (CSOTs) in rural districts, 16 Community Share Ownership Trusts have received \$31,3 million seed capital and are now operational, implementing various development projects such as roads, schools, hospitals, boreholes, dams and irrigation systems and clinics.

In its efforts towards improving the welfare of its workers, Government desires that salaries progressively match the Poverty Datum Line. Be assured Government will not default on its promise to honour the reviewed salaries for civil servants. In addition, plans are already underway to move away from a Pension Benefit Scheme to a Pension Fund, which aims at increasing the retirement package for all public servants.

Human capital development in both the public and private sectors, remains a cornerstone for national development. In this regard, Government remains committed to providing continuous professional development in the public sector.

Public service training institutions and Zipam are therefore instrumental in articulating and sensitising Government ministries, parastatals, State enterprises and local government authorities on Zim-Asset.

In addition these institutions will also scale up and cascade training on results based management at all levels of Government.

Government remains committed to achieving zero new HIV infections, zero HIV-related deaths and zero HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

To this end, it is pleasing to note that we are on track to achieving the HIV related MDG goals by 2015. In the last decade, we have seen a 50 percent reduction of new HIV infection rate among adults and 75 percent in children born from HIV positive mothers. HIV related deaths have also been reduced by over 60 percent.

Overall, the country has attained universal access in most of our key prevention programmes (including prevention of mother-to-child transmission), treatment, care and support, and mitigation services.

However, we are still lagging behind by 55 percent in providing treatment for HIV positive children in the country.

Parastatals, State enterprises and local authorities, who have an important role to play in the successful implementation of Zim-Asset, must efficiently and effectively deliver on their mandate, and should ensure to adhere to principles of corporate governance.

It is most appropriate for me on this occasion to pay tribute to our defence and security forces for their dedication and commitment in maintaining the peace and security of our free and sovereign Zimbabwe. On the international arena, our defence and security forces continue to make us proud as they are deployed in various missions in countries such as South Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau and Ethiopia.

Our foreign policy continues to be anchored on the sacred desire to safeguard our hard-won independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. In respect of regional integration, Zimbabwe continues to participate in the Sadc, Comesa, Tripartite and AU frameworks.

It is pleasing to note that Zimbabwe will this August host the 2014 Sadc Summit of Heads of State and Government and is set to take over the AU Chairmanship next year.

As we celebrate our 34th Independence Day Anniversary, let us commit ourselves to remain united as a nation, and to work in unison towards the successful implementation of Zim-Asset whose ultimate goal is to improve and transform the lives of the people of Zimbabwe.

Once again, I say: Happy Birthday Zimbabwe!

Happy 34th Independence Day Anniversary!

Long Live Zimbabwe! Long Live our Independence!

Makorokoto!

Amhlophe!

Congratulations!

I thank you.

Speech at Zanu-PF Youth Conference (Aug. 12, 2014)

(text of speech comes from [this website](#), transcript fixed with errors on the original site. There may be errors in my corrections but I tried to be as accurate as possible.)

Cde Vice President Mai Mujuru

Cde Chairman S.K. Moyo
Cde Administration Didymus Mutasa
Commissar Cde Shamu
Minister of Harare province Mai Miriam Chikukwa,
All members of the Politburo, Central Committee here present,
Other members of the party from the provinces who might be here as guests,
Our newly elected leadership of the Youth League,
Members of the Youth league all of you from various provinces as representing not just yourselves but others you have left behind,
Representatives of the Women's League who might be here,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Comrades and friends:

We came in order to fulfill our mission. The mission by way of our mandate, of the constitution that once in five years we must have a National People's Congress but that before that Congress, the Youth League and the Women's League must meet at their conferences and in accordance to our constitution, select their leaders, make the necessary changes if necessary, pass their resolutions which will be later on placed before the oncoming National People's Congress side by side with other resolutions especially those which will come from the Women's League and also from the main body.

I want to say to you all, congratulations, on your having accomplished your mission.

It was hard work I know, very hard work. You traveled long distances those of you who come from outside Harare but you knew you were moving on a road, not a very smooth one, rough one, in order to arrive where you will converge together with others from other sides who will have walked similar rough distances.

And your efforts brought you here together, therefore, because you were determined to be good ambassadors of your provinces and indeed good ambassadors of the party. You obeyed the constitutional instructions that compliance, obedience to the constitution is a great act of discipline in itself. A party which just moves blindly does not know what road to follow, meets as and when it pleases, without any regularity is a party in chaos.

You have the past to draw from, to learn from and it is that past which has fed into you the way to do things properly. This is the way.

And when you get back you must always say the way is not what I think, is not what anybody else just thinks, it's the way the constitution thinks. Look at the constitution it will think for you, it will tell you when you should meet in your various provinces and when you should check even your province into meeting as and when it is time for you to do so. It is just that act that I want to praise you for, obey.

Well, you are not individuals, you are members together of a party that has all along been united. We derive our strength from unity, Zanu-PF. That unity subsists and we have forgotten we were two, once upon a time, for the journey we have walked from Independence has been a journey of wonders true, with hitches here and there, but all the time remembering that the struggle we fought made us one. The very fact that we are Zimbabweans who cherish the history of our people, the fact of the struggles that were fought before and we having fought the Second Chimurenga together on various fronts, that

is our history we must cherish. You are born out of it, you are sons of that history let no one deprive you of being the sons of that history, the history that has made you and me Zimbabweans, the history that has made us.

Take off and throw away the false jacket that we were forced to wear that read Southern Rhodesia. We no longer wear it. We were forced to wear it. Our parents, grandparents were forced to wear it for nearly a century, 90 years, 1890 to 1980. Now we wear our own self-made jacket which reads the Republic of Zimbabwe and you are the makers because your parents, your ancestors, your own comrades, some still alive, some we celebrate in a few days time because they are gone, some of those were gone and all these combined making us what we are we are, sons of Zimbabwe, Zimbabweans in full.

And so when we sit here as the youths we are sitting here as a people with a legacy, a legacy that we carry on our shoulders and legacies are never dropped, they are passed on from generation to generation.

The legacy of freedom and independence, the legacy of ownership, sovereign ownership of our natural resources, the legacy that Southern Rhodesia was born again as Zimbabwe on the 18th of April 1980 and that birth will continue to be celebrated every year in the future because it's a rebirth and you are carriers of that multifaceted legacy.

You came to this meeting full of ideas. I am glad that you have gone through the process of putting your thoughts down, of merging them with the thoughts of others and producing what is now that volume of resolutions. Thank you for those resolutions.

They speak of your demands, they speak of your ideas, your recommendations as to how you would want to see our country's natural resources, the wealth of our country turned into the fortunes that build our nation, that build you, that will build those who will come tomorrow as our future sons and daughters, future generations.

We will again look at them at Congress together with you and it will not be the many of you on that occasion. Perhaps not exactly everyone who is here is going to attend but we hope many of you will attend Congress and then when they are blended and looked at and one by one examined and those of them which should be expressed by way of statutes, new laws will take that form. Those of them which do not need to be transformed legally but merely obeyed we will ensure Government obeys them.

You would want to see your status made better, opportunities created, sure this is also our wish and that is why I said as I spoke to you on the first day that for you to take advantage, seize opportunities that the country offers you need to be prepared as participants, the necessary education, intellectual, physical skills, some experience and necessary discipline in you.

You must be prepared to perform in the area best suited for you to participate in. Discipline, that creature we call discipline, what is it? It expresses itself by way of our acts.

There is an opportunity — you want to do mining, you combine A, B, C, D, E and F and you form a company. A fund is organised for you. You have the necessary engineers to help you, you start your

business and then midway we discover others don't come to work, some do come, they choose to come as and when they like.

Others take to drink, others to womanising you can never, never succeed that way. But if you have that discipline it means you have also the focus. It is easy to say we want opportunities but it is an extremely difficult task to take up those opportunities and utilise them properly.

You are an accountant well trained you get the job and you play with figures and start now a fraudulent exercise of stealing money through the pen. You open a bank the same thing happens, well trained, you join twosome, threesome.

You say gentlemen I am an accountant, he has done finance and you have done business studies and we have all done economics in addition and we have worked somewhere, we have experience and let's start our business.

We want to help people and you advertise, clients come, they deposit their money with you and you start looking at yourself 'Aah no I am building a house', the other says, 'You know I need a car. Can't we give ourselves loans from the deposits?' Already you are proving you are not disciplined, you are not supposed to do that.

Just now we have that mess, the majority of our banks started by our young people well educated are facing liquidation. We are trying to serve them from liquidation, Ministry of Finance and Cabinet, because people have used the monies wrongly or they have gone out and taken loans from elsewhere which they cannot pay.

So discipline, discipline, discipline, but there are others who have remained very moderate, very modest knowing that a business does not yield profits overnight, you must struggle if you put in capital you will not recover that capital easily you must work and work and toil.

You must come to a level they say you are breaking even that means your costs and your earnings balance and then that slight margin of profit and then that margin begins to grow but you have to be patient, patience, patience, patience.

Patience is also a virtue, if you want to earn and earn easily aah, come to the informal sector, you have a garden you grow, three months vegetables you are selling on the market etc., we have people with farms and the youngsters are saying, I don't know whether you can run a farm, it's a difficult proposition I must tell you and people think the larger the farm the better not necessarily so on a 50 hectares farm you can do wonders I have seen women do wonders on just two hectares if not one hectare of a garden which is well watered with irrigation, with drip irrigation you get potatoes, you get vegetables of sorts we get green maize.

I am not talking of the farm just the garden so people can make money on a 13 hectare plot. Most of you have been there just now with wheat crop, of course, on the Manyame river is not far from us. We draw water from the Manyame river and it's about just. I reckon I am spoiled by the British, I reckon in miles and I don't know about these kilometres and so on, it's just about a mile and we have a pipe to give us water for just watering.

We have maize and we have just had 52 tonnes from there and on the side we have a Deputy Minister of Agriculture. We keep just about 4,000 or 5,000 and that enables us to look after the home and look after a few people who work so they don't have to come, even the fees pay from what we earn there. The farm is not yet breaking even, we are yet to break even that dairy which gave you yoghurt it's not breaking even yet we are still putting equipment. We have just acquired more equipment from Italy and so on to get to butter stage and cheese stage and it has taken us time but patience, I am saying patience, please be patient. So there it is, please be patient but act properly but you must be people admired, admired by your own children, give example to those around you.

We will do our best we will try to create even financial sources for you to have loans but you must be people whose activities are a model, model for your children and model of others around as I said. Yes you fought, those of you in leadership, yes you won.

I know there have been hitches, some monies and so on. Get away from that! To me you don't deserve to be a youth leader at all. If you allow other people to buy you and if you have voted a certain way, goodness me, you are rubbish.

You are just rubbish, dirty rubbish as the person who has given you money both of you. The giver and the given are alike but we know, you have emerged, most of you are not like that but some are like that we know. You are not political prostitutes, are you? Some people will want to make you political prostitutes.

Eh, let us be well disciplined people, lead our Youth League well.

We have to take care that we don't destroy ourselves and destroy the party. When something is wrong we say something is wrong.

But we move after the corrections, in this way you have made a decision, these are your leaders obey them tomorrow.

We will respect them from the top and we will ensure that you will not be made puppets by those of us who are in the Central Committee or Politburo. There should be co-operation, good co-operation between the Youth League and the elders of the party, you and the Women's League that's what we look forward to.

I want to thank you for the resolutions that you passed and I thank you also for one the recognises the little deed or gesture that we did my wife and I but that is only part of what we felt we should do and in the past that is how we built what we are today. Male leaders were making immense contribution, Chitepo the whole house being given to us for our then President Joshua Nkomo to use in Highfield, you see.

Well, well these things happy.

I was sorry I was not able to go to commemoration a few days ago but he was a very kind man, not very political but very kind hearted, Mapondera, waive to him. In some cases, it was a disaster for families anyway those things happen but this struggle is over, we now have our independence, we have our natural resources, we are now living in homes.

We want our lives to be better, our children to be better, we must work for that, so with that I would want to say to all those who were able to manage and organise your chairman. He was here all the time, and along side according to the constitution we should be doing your minutes, helping you do your minutes. Other members of the Central Committee, I want to thank them all and we thank them all. Of course you are going to write letters to them to express our gratitude and appreciation for those of them who made contributions towards the success of this Conference.

Well this is Sunday now, it's a Pungwe we have had today, and I am sure you are tired now especially those who had to vote. I understand it was very rigorous but the results are what we have been given and we congratulate Chipanga he is the deputy we shall, at the National People's Congress, be appointing the overall leader of your organisation but as I say we are ready to give assistance and let us all be united and the messages we have got including the last one they all enjoin us to unity.

We must be united and that says United We Stand, Divided We Fall we have heard this before in the African National Congress that is Forward Ever, Backwards Never that is what we are. Well you are the frontrunners, you are the frontrunners without your role in the front.

We will meet yes, go to meetings, but you have got to be organising the meetings alongside us and your party, it's you, your dynamism, your unity first and foremost of course unity and that unity must have discipline to assist it so we look forward to working together and I want to end up once again by saying congratulations to you all we are together and I am there because of you thanks for all you have said about me, compliments you have given me and we look at the people and we are driven by your interests, the people's interests.

Without your support we are nothing, without your support, Mugabe would not count for anything in the face of Obama and so on but with your support, unyielding support, I feel we can't be defeated as we defend our country and resources and say to ourselves Zimbabwe is free forever, Zimbabwe will never be a colony again.

I thank you.

Speech to the UN General Assembly (Sept. 26, 2014)

(text of speech comes from [this site](#) and [here](#)).

Your Excellency, Sam Kahamba Kutesa
President of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
Your Excellency Mr Ban Ki-moon,
Secretary General of the United Nations,
Your Majesties,
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Comrades and Friends
Your Excellency,

Allow me to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the 69th Session of the General Assembly. We are indeed proud of the honour that has been bestowed upon the African continent as a result of your election.

Mr President,

The theme you have chosen for this session, 'Delivering on and Implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda' is pertinent, appropriate and timely. It is relevant in our efforts to achieve a seamless transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals, and to the broader post-2015 Development Agenda. We look forward to having a candid and holistic debate on the challenges we continue to face at the domestic and international levels in our efforts to eradicate poverty.

Mr President,

The Millennium Development Goals helped to focus and mobilise global development efforts in order to achieve progress in the social sectors. However, despite the significant achievements under the framework of the MDGs, the progress was uneven between goals, among regions, and within countries. Consequently, we cannot remain complacent when some sections of the global community are marginalised, or even left behind.

We are, therefore, gratified that the proposed sustainable development goals have taken on board the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals. Part of that unfinished business concerns the critical issue of poverty eradication which remains the greatest global challenge. This issue should, therefore, be top priority and overarching objective of the development agenda for the future.

Mr President,

We share the view in SADC that the post-MDG agenda must be informed by national development priorities, and that the new targets must better reflect local conditions. In this regard, Zimbabwe adopted its own economic blueprint, the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (Zim-Asset). This is a bold and achievable development programme that has the objective of achieving inclusive economic growth, generation of decent jobs for all, affordable and reliable energy, food security, sustainable agriculture and development of reliable modern infrastructure. Through this programme we also aim to expand the industrial base which is key to sustained overall economic development as well as the human development of our country. We continue to push for the leveraging of our diverse and abundant resources through the beneficiation and value-addition of our resources.

We, therefore, expect that the proposals in the sustainable development goals, which complement those of our national aspirations, will be endorsed and integrated in the post-2015 Development Agenda Framework.

Mr President, Your Excellencies,

Social justice, political stability and sustainable development in African countries can best be achieved through genuine and committed support for the ownership of means of production that favour the poor, who are in the majority. In Zimbabwe, my government has gone a long way in laying the foundation for sustained food production through our Land Reform Programme. The majority of the rural people have been empowered to contribute to household, and to national food security. The possession and

exploitation of land has also turned them into masters of their own destiny, thus giving true meaning to our national independence and unquestioned sovereignty.

Mr President,

Because Zimbabwe has been pre-occupied with the empowerment of its people economically, she has become a victim of the evil machinations of western countries who continue to apply unilateral and illegal sanctions as a foreign policy tool to achieve short-term political objectives, particularly regime change.

Mr President, regime change is a diabolical illegal policy of interference in the domestic affairs of my country and no good can come from undermining our economy, or depriving our citizens of the necessities of life. Why, I ask, should Zimbabweans continue to suffer under the American and British yoke of unjustified and unwarranted illegal sanctions?

These evil sanctions violate the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and should be condemned by the international community. We once again call for their immediate and unconditional removal.

We are a peaceful and peace-loving nation, ready to engage in constructive dialogue for mutually beneficial relations. We call on those who continue to harbour ill will against us to cast away their hegemony-driven hostility as we appeal to them to review their hard positions and open a new chapter in their relations with us based on mutual respect and friendly cooperation.

Mr President,

To support the implementation of the post-2015 Development Agenda, we call for expeditious reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions, particularly their governance structures.

It is high time that we addressed the democratic deficit in these institutions and improve their legitimacy. These reforms must reflect current realities and ensure the full voice and participation of developing countries in their decision-making and norm-setting.

Mr President,

Zimbabwe firmly believes that the United Nations should promote dialogue to achieve peace, rule of law and common understanding among states. Peace, security, stability and welfare of Africa and our sub-region is vital for us. In Africa, the African Union is working tirelessly to push for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Central African Republic and Somalia. The international community must remain intensively engaged and support Africa in the maintenance of peace and stability, enhancing thereby its peacekeeping capacity needs through training, logistical and financial support. Africa also remains seized with the issue of Western Sahara, the last colonial vestige in Africa. The United Nations should not shake off its responsibility to ensure the achievement of self-determination by the people of Western Sahara.

Mr President,

We continue to witness the suffering and persecution of the people of Palestine at the hands of Israel. We have witnessed the callous murder of women and children in shelters where they seek refuge from Israel's bombs. We have witnessed the brutal and random destruction of infrastructure in the Gaza

Strip, and while these heinous acts were being perpetrated by Israel, the so-called civilised world maintained a deafening silence.

Lasting peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders. Any other manoeuvres to change demographic realities through settlements or use of force will only prolong the suffering of the Palestinians.

Mr President,

In conclusion, as we move forward, it is important to muster the necessary political will to create a development-oriented international environment that hastens the eradication of poverty and enhances the correct management of natural resources for economic and social development under renewed real global partnership.

I thank you.

Speech to the African Union (Jan. 30, 2015)

(Text of speech comes from [this website](#))

Outgoing chairperson of the African Union, President Mohammed Ould Abdel Aziz,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr Nkosazana Dhlamini-Zuma,

Honourable Ministers and Commissioners,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Comrades and Friends.

Let me, at the outset, express my deep appreciation and gratitude to Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government, for the honour and trust you have bestowed on the Government and people of Zimbabwe, and on me personally, by electing me to preside over this august body.

With the full knowledge of the onerous responsibility that lies ahead, I humbly accept your collective decision. I do so confident that I can always count on your full support and co-operation in the execution of the important mandate you have given me.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me also to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for, once again, extending to us the usual generous and

exceptionally warm hospitality that we have become so accustomed to during our visits to this great country.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank and commend Your Excellency, President Mohammed Ould Abdel Aziz, for the able and professional manner that you steered our deliberations in the past year. I will certainly draw on Your Excellency's experience and advice in the year ahead.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

More than five decades ago, I had the unique privilege, as a representative of ZANU, a liberation movement then, to attend the historic occasion of the founding of the Organisation of African Unity in 1963, here in Addis Ababa.

It was indeed a momentous occasion at which Africa decisively took destiny into its own hands.

I still recall, quite vividly, the palpable collective resolve, dedication and commitment of our forebears, to unite and free our continent from the twin scourges of colonialism and poverty. Our freedom and the socio-economic progress, we have thus far attained, are ample testimonies of the correctness of our forebears' vision.

Excellencies,

Africa has come a long way since then. In 1999, at Sirte, Libya, we transformed the OAU structures into the African Union, this in order to take into account the current realities on the Continent.

We have also taken steps to strengthen the essential building blocks for greater African Unity.

Along the way, we have fashioned, for ourselves, very comprehensive and timeless programmes, among which are the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty, and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). Furthermore, we are now at the threshold of launching, for ourselves and future generations, yet another framework in the form of the 50-year Agenda 2063.

As we move forward with this noble agenda, we must emulate and draw inspiration from the principled stand and selfless sacrifices that our forebears made to bring us a strong and united Africa that we are so proud of today.

We call for renewed boundless zeal, commitment and dedication, in implementing programmes and projects that we have set for ourselves in the various political, social, economic and security sectors.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

During my tenure as Chair, I will deliberately provoke your thoughts to pay special attention to issues of infrastructure, value-addition and beneficiation, agriculture and climate change in the context of Africa's development. Numerous studies have pointed out that the lack of physical infrastructure and interconnectedness in Africa has hampered economic development.

Our roads, rail, air and sea route networks are not sufficiently developed to stimulate intra-African trade, investment and tourism.

We need to continue, and perhaps redouble, our current collective efforts in this sector. The road and power projects that we are developing are a positive step in our quest to improve Africa infrastructure. We, therefore, need to work and co-ordinate closely with those partners who are committed to developing our infrastructure as envisaged in our Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

Given that the continent is rich in mineral resources, such resources should be seen to contribute more meaningfully to Africa's development. While we continue to exploit the mineral resources, we seem not to have paid sufficient attention to their value-addition and beneficiation. If the present practice of exporting our minerals in their semi or raw form continues, Africa will continue to have people without employment, who languish in extreme poverty.

Since the majority of our people depend on the land for sustenance and livelihood, we need to ensure they have access to the land, and that Africa's vast agricultural potential is fully harnessed. The Land Reform Programme, that my Government embarked upon since the year 2000, was precisely meant to achieve this, notwithstanding the political demonisation that my country has endured from those who had selfish and vested interests in our land.

The positive impact the programme is having on some sections of our farmers has vindicated us. Our production in the tobacco sector, for example, has by far surpassed levels attained by white former farmers.

Sadly, climate change continues to threaten agriculture on the Continent. Since we are the most vulnerable as a continent, it is imperative that we actively champion our interests within the framework of the United Nations climate change negotiations. In addition, we need to continuously take the necessary mitigation measures as advised by our own experts.

Your Excellencies,

I am alive to the urgency with which we should together continue to strive to confront the ills that beset our continent.

As we look ahead, the African Union should continue to endeavour and double its efforts in bringing about sustainable peace and security on the continent. We are disheartened by the turmoil in Libya, a key member of this august body. Violence in that country has reached unacceptable levels. In the Central African Republic and the Republic of South Sudan, communities that have lived peacefully together for centuries, are now torn apart.

Add to this, the, recurrent disturbances in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo which have taken a heavy toll on human, national and regional resources.

But, on a positive note we highly commend the AU and ECOWAS for handling, in a peaceful manner, the transition in the Republic of Burkina Faso. We also commend the Southern African Development Community for the expeditious and successful manner in which it handled the recent disturbances in the Kingdom of Lesotho.

May I, at this juncture, observe that the continent is not completely free, for as long as our brothers and sisters in Western Sahara remain under Moroccan occupation. We call on the UN to implement all relevant resolutions requiring the holding of a referendum on self-determination for the Saharawi people.

Our failure to complete the decolonisation process in Western Sahara would be a serious negation of the ideals that our founding fathers fought for and bequeathed to us.

The scourge of terrorism and all its attendant evils, threatens all our gains achieved since 1963. In the coming year we, therefore, should deliberate and find lasting solutions to the scourge of terrorism.

The loss of innocent lives and the destruction of property, inflicted by terrorists in Cameroon and Nigeria, is intolerable. I, therefore, advocate that ways and means of containing and eventually eradicating terrorism, be found soonest.

Your Excellences,

As we meet here, Africa is in the throes of another scourge in the form of the Ebola virus. I am, however, heartened to observe that a lot of ground has already been covered in combating the epidemic.

We stand firm with our brothers and sisters, who are directly affected, as we fight to contain and finally eradicate the Ebola scourge. I also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Member States, co-operating partners, corporate bodies, civil society organisations and individuals, who have joined efforts in battling with Ebola.

Esteemed colleagues,

It would be remiss on my part not to reflect on some perspectives on developments, on the global stage, which have a bearing in Africa. Our continent is not immune to the most debilitating conflicts in the Middle East. We urge our international partners of goodwill to bring about sanity and end the senseless loss of lives and the immense suffering of innocent women and children.

The people of Palestine have suffered callous murder and territorial displacement, and yet the so-called champions of human rights in the international community continue to block every effort towards the creation of a viable Palestinian State, existing side by side with the State of Israel.

The AU should fully support the Palestinian God-given quest for statehood, based on the pre-1967 borders, and membership of international organisations, including the International Criminal Court.

Your Excellences,

As SADC Chairman, allow me to take this opportunity to share with you our efforts towards meeting the goals of our regional organisation.

In SADC, we have adopted several economic strategies to propel the sub-region to greater heights, mindful of our role as a building block towards the African Union. The economic transformation

strategy we have crafted, is anchored on leveraging the region's diverse resources to attain sustainable economic development.

The strategy, encapsulated in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, (SIPO), entails adding value to commodities and the beneficiation of minerals. This should bring about industrialisation which, as a result, should catapult the region to a high level of development.

We have agreed, at Summit level, to dedicate an extraordinary Summit to deliberate on this important strategy. We will be meeting in Harare in April this year to deliberate on these issues.

Your Excellencies,

As you may recall, during the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, we made a landmark decision to declare 2015 as the "Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063."

The theme offers us a great opportunity, as Africa, to strengthen our initiatives and to consolidate the gains we have made in the area of gender equality and women empowerment. It also strengthens our resolve to ensure that our commitments to gender equality, as enshrined in the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality are effectively implemented.

Cognisant of the importance of this theme, we have set aside the 2015 African Union Session to fully deliberate and develop this theme. It is now my singular honour to declare the theme.

"An Africa where development is people-driven, unleashing the potential of its women and youth," officially launched.

I thank you.

Speech to the SADC [Southern African Development Community] (Apr. 29, 2015) (Text of speech comes from the [SADC's website](#))

Your Majesty, King Mswati III, of the Kingdom of Swaziland;

Your Excellencies, SADC Heads of State and Government;

The Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax;

Honourable Ministers;

SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials;

Heads of Other Regional Organisations Here Present;

Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Comrades and Friends.

It is with great honour and pleasure that I, on behalf of the Government and people of Zimbabwe, welcome you to this Extraordinary Summit. We feel greatly honoured to host you, this time in Harare, the Sunshine City. It is my hope that Harare will provide a conducive atmosphere for us to apply our minds in crafting a strategy for the industrialisation of our Region. We believe this was long overdue.

Your presence attests to your commitment to the ideals of SADC, and to the collective resolve to accelerate the industrialisation of our region. I have all the confidence that this Summit will be a resounding success and that the decisions we make, will enhance closer integration in our Region.

I wish to particularly extend a very special welcome to colleagues among us, who are participating in our meetings, for the first time since their assumption of office. In this regard, I wish to acknowledge amongst us, the presence of: His Excellency Mr. Edgar Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, His Excellency Filipe Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, His Excellency Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, and for the second time, Honourable Pakalitha Mosisili, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Your Excellencies,

We congratulate you on successfully holding peaceful and democratic elections in your countries. We welcome you and look forward to working closely with you for the betterment of our people, the Region and the Continent at large.

Allow me to also extend, on behalf of SADC, sincere congratulations to the brotherly people of the Kingdom of Lesotho for holding peaceful, transparent, free and fair elections, in accordance with the SADC requirements. We commend them for showing political maturity by accepting the outcome of the elections. May I, in the same vein, commend the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, His Excellency President Jacob Zuma and the SADC Facilitator on Lesotho, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, for guiding the peace process to its successful conclusion.

Your Majesty, Your Excellencies,

Our region is endowed with abundant and diverse natural resources. Just to illustrate this point, our mineral sector alone, contributes to world production; about 6% of coal, 7% of nickel, 8% of copper, 13% of uranium, 15% of manganese, 18% of cobalt, 21% of zinc, 26% of gold, 41% of chromite, 55% of diamonds and 72% of the platinum group of metals. This is our contribution to the world.

But alas, despite the rich and diverse endowments of our region, about 70% of our people continue to live below the poverty datum line. By exporting our natural resources in their raw form, we are not only earning marginal benefits from them, we are in essence compromising our efforts to create jobs, diversify our products, and develop our industries and ultimately thus ultimately exposing our economies to the vagaries of the fluctuations of the global resource markets.

The situation is equally discouraging in other sectors. In agriculture, SADC countries have remained as sources of unprocessed agricultural produce, thus earning a mere 10% of the actual value of our products. This sad story extends beyond SADC to other fellow African countries.

Your Excellencies,

It is imperative for us to reverse this trend if we are to achieve self-sustaining development for our countries. It is only through adding value to our products that we can make the first step. Value addition and beneficiation will lead to increased returns from the export of our tobacco, cocoa, coffee, cotton, wood, and sugar among others. If we continue as exporters of raw materials, we are sure to remain trapped in the jaws of underdevelopment, while those who add value on our behalf flourish at our expense.

Your Majesty, Esteemed Colleagues

As you are aware, the volume of intra-SADC trade remains very low. This is notwithstanding our persistent endeavours to boost trade within the region through the Free Trade Area. Statistics show that import figures between ourselves and the Asia Pacific region account for 45%, while with the EU it stands at 27%. Sadly, imports from within the region are a paltry 10%, with raw materials and semi-processed goods accounting for the bulk of the exchange.

It is therefore evident that our focus on reducing and eliminating tariffs has not brought about the intended socio-economic development and well-being of our people.

There is therefore need for collective action on our part to put in place effective strategies to boost the productive capacity of our industries. Enhanced productive capacities will enable our industry to reap the benefits from the market opportunities created by trade liberalisation.

Cognisant of the critical role that industrialisation plays in winning the fight against poverty, the majority of us, at national level, have already embraced industrialisation policy frameworks and programmes that emphasise value addition and beneficiation. It is therefore imperative that, driven by that conviction, we adopt the same paradigm shift at regional level, through embracing a regional integration and development strategy that prioritises industrialisation. The potential benefits that we stand to derive from exploiting comparative and competitive advantages as well as local and regional value chains are immense.

Your Majesty, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

Since our 2014 Summit in Victoria Falls, our Task Force on Regional Economic Integration has been painstakingly working on a Regional Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap, in line with instructions we gave them. I am also informed that our Council of Ministers have considered and adopted their recommendations. I am confident that the Strategy, if implemented effectively, has the potential of unlocking opportunities beyond our borders, leading to sustained economic growth and development. It is my hope that once we have considered and adopted these recommendations, we will move on to the most important task – that of implementing our decisions.

As we implement our regional industrialisation strategy, it is also imperative to develop those sectors that enhance the effectiveness of this strategy. One such area is our infrastructure. As SADC, we already have a Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan. It will be important to ensure that this plan is in tandem with our industrial strategy.

Another area of critical importance in our strategy is that of research and development which is pivotal to innovative approaches needed to create new products. The development of critical skills and expertise that gives us scientists and engineers is therefore of paramount importance.

Your Majesty, Excellencies,

Last but not most important, is the need for the region to work out effective financial mechanisms to fund the regional industrialisation strategy. We cannot expect those who benefit from our status as exporters or raw materials to fund our effort to wean ourselves from this unequal relationship, a relationship in which they have the prerogative of dictating the terms of trade.

In our noble march towards an industrialised SADC, we should never forget that our women and the youth are the backbone of our economies, particularly in the micro, small and medium enterprises sector. They are, without doubt, our future. We should therefore leave no stone unturned in our efforts to empower them, including the provision of the requisite resources for their programmes.

Your Majesty, Excellencies,

Allow me to express my appreciation to the Council of Ministers, Madam Executive Secretary, and all involved, for the energies they expended in coming up, within record time, with the Draft Strategy and Roadmap that would be under consideration today. I want to commend you all for a job well done.

I wish to invite us all, to exercise our minds during our deliberations, with the key objectives of deepening regional integration and cooperation, and eradicating poverty from our sub-region. I have no doubt that, as a collective, we have the pedigree to succeed and take this region to a whole new level. Let this Summit be another decisive step towards achieving the ideals of the founding fathers, not only of SADC, but of the whole continent.

I thank you.

Speech presented to Zimbabwean MPs (Sept. 16, 2015)

(This [was the speech](#) he was supposed to give but he was accidentally handed the wrong speech)

Madame President of the Senate,

Mr Speaker Sir,

Members of Parliament,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Comrades and Friends.

Once again, it gives me great pleasure to address this august House, this time, on the occasion of the opening of the Third Session of the Eighth Parliament of Zimbabwe.

This Session commences at a time when the alignment of our legislation to the Constitution being accelerated as required in terms of the provisions of Section 324 of the Constitution.

The Electoral Amendment Act and the National Prosecuting Authority Act, which were prioritised under this exercise, are now operational.

The General Laws Amendment Bill, which will effect non-consequential changes to over 158 statutes, together with the Gender Commission Bill and the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Amendment Bill, are already under consideration by Parliament.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

In order to stimulate both local and foreign direct investment inflows, Government is carrying out a raft of measures to improve the business environment in the country. In this regard, the Company's Act and other pieces of legislation, which have hitherto hindered the ease of doing business, will be overhauled. Furthermore, the Zimbabwe Investment Authority Amendment Bill, which seeks to convert the Authority into a true One-Stop-Shop Investment Centre, will be tabled for consideration by this august House.

The State Procurement Amendment Bill, which seeks to improve efficiency in the public procurement system, will also be tabled before this Parliament.

The Bill provides for the conversion of the current State Procurement Board into a non-executive standards setting and compliance monitoring body, while decentralising the procurement function to Ministries, public enterprises and local authorities.

The Special Economic Zones Bill, which seeks to promote exports, boost industrialisation and enhance skills and technology transfer, will also be tabled during this session. In order to promote the revival and growth of the local manufacturing sector, action is being taken to limit the importation of goods for which there is adequate local production capacity. In order to provide anchorage to the efforts at turning around our economy, the Banking Amendment Bill, which seeks to strengthen the banking regulatory system, will be presented in this Parliament.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

The Supreme Court ruling on the Common Law position regarding the termination of employment contracts triggered job losses. Regrettably, the compelling need to move with speed on the matter found the social partners rather unprepared. This resulted in some of their proposed amendments not being factored in at the time the Labour Amendment Bill was tabled in Parliament. Government, nonetheless, remains committed to take on board the social partners' concerns for further amendment of the Labour Act.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

The mining sector remains the centrepiece of the country's economic revival as envisaged under the ZIMASSET. However, to realise the sector's full potential, it is necessary to invest in an intensive exploration programme, and in mineral value addition and beneficiation. To this end, the Mineral Exploration and Marketing Corporation Bill, which aims to transform the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe into a full-fledged mineral exploration corporation, will be tabled before this august House.

The Bill will provide for a competitive and investment-focused legislative framework. The Bill for the establishment of the Pan African Minerals University of Science and Technology, which will offer post-graduate training programmes in mineral value addition and beneficiation, is also set to be tabled in this august House.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

Section 296 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of the Land Commission to replace the former Agricultural Land Board. The Land Commission will carry out the land audit and is also mandated to ensure accountability, fairness and transparency in the administration of all agricultural land. Accordingly, the Land Commission Bill will be presented to Parliament during the current Session.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

The Consumer Protection Bill will be tabled during the current Session in order to promote consumer rights and fair business competition and marketing. The Zimbabwe Standards Regulatory Authority will be operationalised to ensure compliance with quality, health safety, and environmental standards for imports and exports. A Bill will be tabled to repeal the National Incomes and Pricing Commission Act, and to establish the National Competitiveness Commission, which will have the mandate to spearhead the improvement of the country's business competitiveness.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

To improve the state of the infrastructure and clear the administrative bottlenecks at the country's border ports, the National Border Ports Authority Bill will be introduced in Parliament during the current Session. Already, a model border post for the country has been developed. The process of selecting companies to construct such border posts is currently underway. The underlying objective is to facilitate the free movement of tourists, investors and goods.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

Government has embarked on a US\$125 million Digitalisation Project which, on completion, should see us achieve universal coverage for both radio and television. Furthermore, as the project rolls out its fibre-optic terrestrial backbone, other ICT-based applications, especially for schools and rural business centres, will immensely benefit from this vast investment.

The e-Transactions Bill will also be introduced to govern and manage e-Commerce across our networks. An e-Government policy is being formulated to facilitate efficient ICT-enabled operations within and across public sector entities.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

Small and Medium Enterprises, as well as cooperatives, continue to provide employment and decent livelihoods for a large number of families. To further grow the sector, an appropriate legal framework shall be introduced in order to facilitate the sustained growth of the sector.

The Cooperative Societies Act (Amendment Bill) to, inter alia, incorporate the operations of Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies, will be brought before this august House. In order to unlock external investment, it became necessary to simplify and rationalise the implementation of the Indigenization and Economic Empowerment Act so as to render it more flexible. This was done in order to empower relevant Ministries to negotiate investment thresholds, taking into account peculiarities prevailing in their respective sectors.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

The Local Authorities Bill will be introduced in Parliament during this Session. The Bill will

consolidate the current Urban Councils Act and the Rural District Councils Act. It will also establish a Tribunal to deal with issues of the dismissal or discipline of councillors, mayors and chairpersons of local authorities. The bill, will, in addition, spell out provisions under which the status of local authorities can be upgraded or downgraded on the basis of changed circumstances.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

The provision of quality education remains a key priority on the national development agenda. Work is currently underway on the Education Amendment Bill in order to align the Education Act of 2006 with the Constitution. The entire Primary and Secondary School Curriculum is being reviewed to render the country's education system appropriate for the current and future development needs of our country. Government has also come up with a policy framework to facilitate the provision of infrastructure at our institutions of learning, within the context of public-private joint venture partnerships.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

Effective health care provision is the cornerstone for our national well-being. Accordingly, the Public Health Bill will be tabled during the course of the current Session. The Bill seeks to adequately address current public health challenges, among them the issues of non-communicable diseases, maternal health, cross border risks as well as the involvement of non-state actors and communities in the health care provision. A Regulatory Authority for Medical Aid Societies will also be enacted to provide the much needed recourse for improved governance, and to ensure clarity of roles between insurers and service providers.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

Government continues to prioritise the implementation of programmes and initiatives to empower the youth. In this regard, you may recall that our young people brought forward numerous positive contributions and proposals during the June 2015 23rd Session of the Junior Parliament, and these needed to be explored further. Extensive stakeholder consultations on issues affecting children having been completed, the Children's Amendment Bill, which seeks to address matters pertaining to children's welfare, will be presented in this Parliament.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

In compliance with Section 245 of the Constitution, Government has now set up the Gender Commission which will monitor the implementation of Gender-inclined Constitutional provisions, recommended affirmative action programmes to achieve gender equity, and ensure redress for gender rights violations.

Madame President Mr Speaker, Sir,

A Bill to combine the War Veterans Act and the Ex-Political Prisoners, Detainees and Restrictes Act into one Act, now incorporating the War Collaborators, will be tabled before Parliament during this Session. Efforts are also underway to construct three Zimbabwe Liberation War Memorial Hospitals in Harare, Bulawayo and Victoria Falls, through a joint venture partnership with a foreign contractor.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

The scourge of corruption continues to rear its ugly head at all levels of our society. Government will therefore ginger up its systems to effectively respond to this challenge. As part of this effort, a code of conduct will be put in place, in terms of which, all high level public office holders shall be required, to disclose their assets upon assumption of office, or to declare their interests on matters that may create

scope for conflict of interest. A national Code of Corporate Governance Bill, to bolster the fight against corruption, will be brought for consideration by this Parliament.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

The National Security Council Amendment Bill, which provides for the establishment of a National Security Council to advise Government on national security policy and strategies, will be brought before Parliament during this Session. The Zimbabwe National Defence University Bill, providing for the transformation of the National Defence University, will also be brought before Parliament during this Session. The university will act as the national think-tank, and provide higher education and training in national policy and strategy formulation for military and civilian leaders.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

Let me take this opportunity to express my utmost disgust towards those of warped minds, who heartlessly rape even six-month old toddlers. We are re-examining our laws with a view to imposing mandatory sentences against perpetrators of this heinous crime.

As I conclude, may I remind all Honourable members of this august House of the need to always conduct business in a manner that does not erode the stock of trust reposed in us by the electorate. We indeed carry on our shoulders the hopes and aspirations of our people. Let us channel our collective energies towards the development of our country, guided by our economic blueprint, the ZIMASSET. This, of course, demands of us all to always cherish the crown values of peace, hard work and the unity of purpose.

Madame President, Mr Speaker, Sir,

Allow me, at this moment, to declare the Third Session of the Eighth Parliament of Zimbabwe duly open, and to wish you fruitful deliberations in pursuit of national development.

I thank you.

Speech to the UN General Assembly (Sept. 28, 2015)

(Text of [speech](#) comes from [this website](#) with an added in phrase which is noted in the text)

Your Excellency, Mr Morgens Lykketoft, President of the General Assembly,

Your Majesties, Heads of the State and Government, Your Excellency Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Comrades and friends.

Allow me at the outset to extend to you, Mr Lykketoft, my warm congratulations on your election to the high office of President of the 70th Session of the General Assembly.

You assume this office at a historic moment when the United Nations has just adopted an ambitious agenda for the future of humankind.

The task ahead needs all hands on the deck and you can count on our co-operation and support during your Presidency.

Mr President,

I wish to commend Mr Sam Kutesa, a distinguished son of Africa, for the dynamism with which he steered this august body over the past year.

We particularly appreciated his leadership in promoting inclusive dialogue and seeking consensus on the many sensitive issues that he presided over during his tenure.

The theme for this session, “The United Nations at 70: The road ahead for peace, security and human rights”, aptly complements the deliberations of the Summit meeting on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It is our expectation that the United Nations will draw from its seven decades long experiences to give birth to a new era of peace, equality and justice; a new era that recognises and fosters the commonality of our common fate through renewed international co-operation and solidarity.

Mr President,

The African Union welcomes the priorities you have proposed for they are in tandem with our own developmental plan, the Agenda 2063, which recognises the intrinsic and inextricable linkages between peace, security, development, and the full realisation of human rights.

The African Union Constitutive Act recognises that, while peace and security are imperative for our progress, conflict is a major impediment to the socio-economic advancement and integration of the continent.

Consequently, the Common African Position (CAP) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, designates “Peace and Security” as one of its six key pillars, and a top priority for us.

The prevalence of peace not only creates conducive conditions for development, but also ensures that the maximum possible resources can be dedicated to development programmes and projects.

We welcome and encourage the continued co-operation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU), principally through the latter’s Peace and Security Council, in advancing peace and security in Africa.

Mr President,

In January this year, the leaders of the African Union adopted Agenda 2063 as our continent’s plan to accelerate deepened economic integration of our countries and regions.

Its main objective is to improve the well-being of the continent’s citizenry through sustained and balanced economic growth.

At the AU Summit in Pretoria, South Africa in June this year, we agreed on the Agenda’s first 10-year development plan.

During these initial 10 years, the flagship programmes will include the creation of a Continental Free trade Area, the African Centre for Disease Control, a Pan-Africa University of Science and Technology (to develop skills for the value-addition and beneficiation of the continent's vast mineral resources), a Single Aviation Market, a High Speed Train, and a Pan-African E-Network.

The successful implementation of Agenda 2063 calls, not just for the commitment of African stakeholders, but also for the support and engagement of partners beyond the borders of our continent. Africa is not looking for handouts.

Rather, it is looking for partners in massive infrastructural development in creating and exploiting the value chains of its God-given natural resources, and in improving the quality of life of the continent's citizens.

The entire world stands to benefit from an economically empowered African continent than from one emasculated by deprivation and with an over-dependence on others.

Mr President,
Adaptation to change is the most crucial ingredient for the vibrancy and effectiveness of any organisation, including the United Nations.

While the world has drastically changed since 1945, the United Nations, and indeed the global governance architecture, remains mired in a long bygone era.

This archaic hierarchy among nations threatens to erode the confidence and support that the United Nations commands among the majority — but disadvantaged — of its membership.

We are disappointed that we have lost the opportunity of this anniversary to address this burning issue of the reform of the United Nations Security Council in a manner that satisfies the just demands of the majority among us.

I wish to reiterate our strong attachment to Africa's common position on the reform of the Security Council, contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration.

I call on all genuine friends of Africa and all those who value justice, fairness and democracy to support Africa's just and reasonable proposals.

Mr President,
We equally call for the revitalisation of the General Assembly, the sole universally representative and democratic organ of the United Nations, so that it can effectively carry out its Charter-mandated responsibilities.

Accordingly, we fully support the call for inclusivity and transparency in selecting our organisation's Secretary-General, by ensuring that the General Assembly plays a more significant role in that process. After all, the Secretary-general is at the service of all the member-states, and not only that of an exclusive, privileged few.

Mr President,
Respecting and upholding human rights is the obligation of all states, and is enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

Nowhere does the Charter arrogate the right to some to sit in judgment of others in carrying out this universal obligation.

In that regard, we reject the politicisation of this important issue and the application of double standards to victimise those who dare think and act independently of the self-anointed prefects of our time.

We equally reject attempts to prescribe “new rights” that are contrary to our values, norms, traditions and beliefs. We are not gays. [The last sentence got a lot of focus on the Western press].

Co-operation and respect for each other will advance the cause of human rights worldwide.

Confrontation, vilification and double standards will not.

Mr President,
Self-determination and independence are intrinsic and fundamental rights that should be enjoyed by all peoples everywhere, without distinction.

We are deeply concerned by the continued denial of this basic right to the Saharawi people.

We urge the United Nations to expeditiously finalise what must be done to conclude the decolonisation of the Western Sahara.

In the Middle East, the suffering of the Palestinian people continues unabated.

We reiterate our unwavering support to the just cause of the Palestinian people. We also reiterate that lasting peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through negotiations to achieve a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders.

We are concerned by the increase on tensions in that region, and urge the United Nations to assume its responsibility and bring an end to this senseless conflict.

Mr President,
The promotion of gender equality is critical for the realisation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The African Union designated 2015 “The Year of the Advancement of Women Empowerment and Development Towards Agenda 2063” in order to mobilise our individual and collective actions around this key issue.

Gender equality and women empowerment are central to the achievement of human development, progress and the elimination of the scourge of poverty and deprivation.

We must continue to build upon the achievements that have been realised since the 1995 Fourth United Nations Conference on Women and the Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action.

Mr President,

The growing list of phenomenon that neither respect nor know any borders makes it imperative that we mobilise all mechanisms of co-operation to effectively overcome them.

Terrorism and extreme violence, communicable diseases such as HIV and Aids, tuberculosis, malaria, bird flu and Ebola cannot be overcome single-handedly.

The United Nations and its specialised agencies is the place and mechanism for his indispensable and necessary co-operation.

For some months now, we have watched heartbreaking and harrowing scenes of desperate refugees seeking to enter Europe in search of safety and shelter from the ravages of conflict in their own homelands.

We have also read of the tragedy and loss of life in the Mediterranean.

The majority of the affected people are from Syria or from other countries devastated by conflict and instability induced, in great part, by the destabilising policies of external forces.

This tragic situation could have been avoided through respect of the independence of other countries and non-interference in their internal affairs.

In the case of Libya, we are witnessing the results of abusing the authority of the United Nations Security Council and ignoring the opinion of regional organisations, in this instance, the African Union (AU), which are supposed to be the United Nations' partners in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr President,

My country, Zimbabwe, is committed to a fair, just and effective United Nations, in which multilateralism, inclusivity and transparency replace unilateralism, exclusion and backroom deals.

The Charter of the United Nations is built on the bedrock of the sovereign equality and independence of its members, without distinction as to their geographical size, economic might, or any other endowments or qualifications.

We are deeply attached to these principles and call on other members of the United Nations to be similarly disposed. The United Nations was set up, among other purposes, to "develop friendly relations amongst nations."

Zimbabwe desires, and is committed to nurturing friendly relations with other nations.

We invite other countries with which we may have differences of whatever nature to eschew threats, pressures and punitive actions; in favour of reconciliation, friendship and dialogue.

I therefore denounce, in the strongest terms, the illegal sanctions that are imposed on my country by the European Union and the USA and call for their immediate and unconditional removal.

Once more, I put it on record that my country is desirous to live in harmony with all countries, big and small.

Mr President,

The 70th anniversary of our organisation has been marked by the adoption of a far-reaching agenda which has the potential to drastically transform our world in all aspects. We are under no illusion about the challenges that lie ahead but we are not discouraged either. Humankind has, over the epochs, demonstrated an immense tenacity in overcoming inertia and resistance to change.

Now is our time to leave our own positive mark in the history of human development and interaction. Posterity expects no less from us.

I thank you.

Speech to the National Housing Conference (July 14, 2016)

(Text of speech comes from [this website](#))

Honourable Minister of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing, Comrade Saviour Kasukuwere, Honourable Minister of State for Provincial Affairs for Harare Metropolitan Province Comrade Miriam Chikukwa, Vice President Mphoko (I should have saluted you earlier), Honourable Ministers here present, members of the Diplomatic Corps, The Minister of Power, Works and Housing from the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Honourable Raji Babatunde, senior Government officials here present, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is indeed an honour for me to be invited to officiate at this important event, the National Housing Conference and Expo. The Conference comes at a time when the country is beset with a housing backlog of 1,25 million housing units, a situation which must be confronted collectively and in a robust manner, by all stakeholders concerned. This requires that we put our heads together, pull in one direction and leverage resources from Government, private sector, civil society, universities and colleges, housing finance institutions, professional bodies, international agencies, and any other key stakeholders in the housing delivery sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Housing provision is the world over, an engine for economic growth, which serves as barometer of any nation's level of economic growth and development. It goes without saying that when this sector performs, all the other downstream sectors also flourish. The sector creates employment for those who are into construction, in as much as it promotes small and medium enterprises, the main suppliers of building materials.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I challenge and implore all of us here today to perceive the housing backlog as an opportunity rather than a problem. Indeed, we cannot haplessly watch this backlog balloon, without taking the requisite corrective action. The solution lies with all of us.

I also regard the housing backlog as an investment opportunity. The houses that are yet to be developed are a clear demonstration of the demand for housing in this country. There lies a readily available market which has for long, remained untapped by local and foreign investors.

My Government plays a facilitatory role in housing provision by availing suitable land for development to the ministry of Land and Rural Resettlement. At present, farms around the Nyatsime area have been availed to the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing for urban expansion.

I would like to commend the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing, for mooted the idea of decongesting the conventional cities and towns, by creating stand-alone and self-contained new towns. I am reliably informed that plans are afoot to pilot the concept at Chishawasha B in Harare, Nyatsime area in Manyame Rural District Council, Knock Mallock in Norton and Umvutsha in Bulawayo. These schemes indeed require bulk off-site infrastructure which presents investment opportunities, in addition to on-site infrastructure and actual housing construction.

Government is also making efforts to identify and acquire additional land for urban expansion. Since land is a finite resource, it is crucial for us to explore attendant ways of curbing urban sprawl, by adopting high rise buildings which accommodate greater population densities.

Ladies and Gentleman,

The principles of Ease-of Doing-Business should cut across all sectors, including housing infrastructure delivery. To that end, all the bottlenecks in the housing delivery processes should be removed forthwith. Instead, we should bring together experts from Government, Local Authorities, Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA), and Environmental Management Agency (EMA), and any other critical stakeholders, this would expedite the planning processes, thereby cutting on bureaucratic red-tape.

Ladies and Gentleman,

My Government needs to find immediate solutions to the mushrooming of informal settlements in major urban centres across the country, with the worst scourge rearing its ugly head within Harare Metropolitan Province. In the recent past, the country has witnessed development of informal settlements, the bulk of which have been on undesignated land or such land delineated for other purposes.

Such settlements, which lack the requisite water and sanitation facilities, are a potential health hazard, often resulting in the outbreak of diseases such as cholera and typhoid. I urge the Minister of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing to tighten the screws and put an end to this scourge forthwith. People who require land should follow the proper procedures in acquiring housing stands from the relevant authorities.

In conclusion, I would like to appreciate and acknowledge the organisers of this conference. It is my wish that, as we deliberate housing issues, we do so pursuing models that are in the best interest of our people. At the end of the conference, we should come up with sound resolutions that measure up to expectations of our citizenry.

Ladies and gentlemen, with these remarks, allow me to declare this National Housing Conference and Expo, officially open.

I thank you.

Speech at the National Sports Stadium (Aug. 9, 2016)

(text of speech comes from [this site](#))

Honourable Vice President, Comrade Emmerson Mnangagwa and Amai;

Honourable Vice President, Comrade Phelekezela Mphoko and Amai;

Honourable Minister of Defence, Dr. Sydney Sekeramayi;

Honourable Ministers here present;

Members of the Politburo here present;

Secretary for Defence, Comrade Martin Rushwaya;

Commander Defence Forces, General Constantino Chiwenga;

Commander Zimbabwe National Army, Lieutenant-General Philip Valerio Sibanda;

Commander Air Force of Zimbabwe Air Marshal Perrance Shiri;

Commissioner-General of the Zimbabwe Republic Police Comrade Augustine Chihuri,

Commissioner-General of the Prisons and Correctional Services Major-General Paradzai Zimondi
(Retired);

Senior Government officials;

Members of Parliament;

Members of the diplomatic corps;

Invited guests;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Comrades and friends.

May I warmly welcome you all to the National Sports Stadium where we have assembled to commemorate the Zimbabwe Defence Forces 36th anniversary celebrations.

Since Independence, the Zimbabwean Defence Forces (ZDF) have transformed into a solid entity that has clearly demonstrated its ability to defend the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

As we all know, this present united army was born out of the integration of the previously warring forces of Zanla and Zipra on one side, and the Rhodesian Forces on the other.

I need not remind you that the integration of the army, was initially, in an environment that was not only tense but also fraught with mistrust and suspicion.

Thankfully, all that is now history. The ZDF's primarily focus is maintaining the country's peace and tranquillity, and engaging in other numerous peace- time activities.

The forces, for example, timeously intervene in hospitals, when the regular critical staff has gone on strike.

Recently they also have had to rescue villagers marooned by floods in Muzarabani, Tsholotsho and Masvingo.

In recent years of drought, the ZDF have assisted in the effective movement of food relief to Zimbabwe's remote areas.

This year, as part of the Food Security Task Force, they have been found heavily instrumental, as they took the lead in the acquisition and movement of food relief to all the country's 10 provinces.

To date, ZDF have moved more than 10 000 metric tonnes of relief maize. Their involvement in the national food relief vividly reminds us of Operation Maguta, another of ZDF's successful food security initiatives. They indeed deserve the nickname "Mararamisa vanhu", they have since acquired.

Comrades and friends, although the war of liberation ended 36 years ago, our country is still faced with remnants of war in the form of unexploded ordnance.

This is particularly so along our border with Mozambique, where ZDF are involved in the demining operations.

ZDF engineer corps of de-miners carry out this de-mining exercise in Sango Border area, while the Halo Trust Demine in Mukumbura, and the Norwegian People's Aid focus on the Forbes Border area.

In the course of their peace-time duties, the forces also closely cooperate with other arms of Government.

They provide support to the ZRP in guarding the country's key installations such as the Beira Corridor, and in curbing the smuggling of goods at the country's borders.

Occasionally, the ministries of Health, Mining, Agriculture, Local Government, Secondary and Primary Education, among others, have sought, and received support from the forces.

Currently, the ZDF major underway projects include construction of Enala Clinic in Tsholotsho, four classroom blocks at Mapani Park Primary School in Chakari, Chasiyatende Clinic in Masvingo, four teachers' quarters and ablution facilities at Zibomvu in Silobela, among others.

Through the operationalisation of the African Standby Brigade, our defence forces pursue and enjoy the mutual cooperation, interaction and exchange of military skills with neighbouring friendly countries.

The Sadc Special Forces Training Exercise, codenamed Mahombekombe, amply demonstrated such cooperation when, in 2015, it drew participants from Angola, South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia.

Ladies and gentleman, our forces are often deployed in regional and international peace support operations, under the auspices of Sadc, the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN).

Currently, nine officers have been deployed to Darfur, two to Abyei, one in Liberia and one in Ethiopia. In these cases, our soldiers, without exception, have demonstrated the highest level of discipline. They indeed make us proud.

ZDF is cognisant of the need to continuously review conditions of service of its members. In this regard, the defence forces recently acquired a fleet of troop- carrying vehicles, staff cars and buses, to facilitate the movement of personnel to and from their respective work stations.

In addition, efforts are still underway to provide decent accommodation to members of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, under the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) and the Zimbabwe Defence Forces Benefit Fund.

I wish to conclude by expressing my appreciation of you all, for coming to this commemoration of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces.

You have indeed amply demonstrated your support for our forces that are dedicated to working with, within, and for the people.

I am encouraged, indeed very pleased, with the symbiotic relationship that exists between our forces and our people and that relationship or cooperation is very welcoming indeed.

May I also commend all the organisers of this event that have worked tirelessly to ensure that the celebrations become a resounding success.

I thank you.

Speech to the UN General Assembly (Sept. 22, 2016)

(text of this speech comes from [this site](#), [this site](#), and [this PDF](#))

Your Excellency Mr Peter Thomson, President of the 71st Session of the General Assembly; Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government; Your Excellency Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; distinguished delegates; ladies and gentlemen; comrades and friends.

Let me begin by congratulating you, Ambassador Thomson, on your election to the Presidency of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I also extend our deep appreciation to your

immediate predecessor, Mr Mogens Lykketoft for his able stewardship of this Assembly during the 70th Session.

Mr President,

We all vividly recall the momentous occasion in September last year when we adopted the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030. This Assembly provides us with a unique opportunity to review the measures we have taken thus far at both international and national levels in line with our commitments to global socio-economic transformation.

While compromises were unavoidable, even inevitable, in developing this important agenda, compromises or half-measures have no place in its implementation phase. We need sincere, genuine and total commitment by all to the implementation of this agenda if it is not to join many other previous well-crafted global agendas that ended in failure and non-delivery. We that this time around this agenda will meet a better fate.

We are encouraged that since September last year, foundational steps have been and are being taken at various levels to implement Agenda 2030. In this regards, we note the convening of the Global Infrastructure Forum in April this year, the convening of the Multi-Stakeholder Science, Technology and Innovation Forum here in June, the launch of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and activation of its online platform.

We also note the follow-up meetings pertaining to the development of concrete actions for the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development. These activities at the global level have been equally matched at the national level, with virtually all member states reporting preparations to implement this universal agenda.

Mr President,

On our part, I am happy to inform you that we have established national multi-stakeholders and multi-sector structures to domesticate and implement the 2030 Agenda in a co-ordinated and integrated manner with our national development programme, the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (Zim-Asset).

Our task of domesticating Agenda 2030 has been made relatively less challenging in that the vision and aspirations of our national economic blueprint and the global agenda are basically the same. Our biggest impediment to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda is the burden of the punitive and heinous sanctions imposed against us by some among us here.

My country, Zimbabwe, is the innocent victim of spiteful sanctions imposed by the United States and other powers and these countries have for some reason maintained these sanctions for some 16 years now.

As a country, we are being collectively punished for exercising the one primordial principle enshrined in the United Nations Charter, that of sovereign independence. We are being punished for doing what all other nations have done, that is, possessing and owning their natural resources, and listening to and responding to the basic needs of our people.

Those who have imposed these sanctions would rather have us pander to their interests at the expense of the basic needs of the majority of our people. As long as these economic and financial sanctions remain in place, Zimbabwe capacity to fully and effectively implement Agenda 2030 is deeply curtailed.

I repeat my call to Britain and the United States and their allies to remove the illegal and unjustified sanctions against my country and its people. We must all be bound by our commitments to Agenda 2030, under which we all agreed to eschew sanctions in favour of dialogue.

Mr President,

This session of the General Assembly will elect the next Secretary-General of our organisation. We have witnessed commendable efforts aimed at making the selection process of the next Secretary-General inclusive and transparent. The greater involvement of the General Assembly, and therefore of the majority of our membership, does not, however, mask the opaqueness of the process at Security Council level.

We expect the current experience to lead to a more inclusive and transparent process in the future.

Mr President,

For over 20 years, many of us have come to this rostrum, pleading and demanding for reforms of the Security Council. Today we are no closer to achieving that goal than we were 20 years ago. This is so in spite of the universal acknowledgement of the injustice, unfairness and inappropriateness of the current composition of the Security Council.

We now have an opportunity, in the ongoing negotiations, in the intergovernmental negotiations, to redress this unjustifiable and unjust situation in the interests of a strong and more united organisation capable of delivering on its mandates.

Mr President,

Our common commitment to leaving no one behind demands that we address the plight of peoples still living under colonialism and occupation. The people of Palestine have lived under occupation and persecution for over 49 years. It is high time that the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, fulfils its Charter duties and obligations by implementing its resolutions, including Resolution 181, Resolution 242 and Resolution 338.

The two-state solution, based on the pre-June 1967 border, should now be pursued within set parameters and set timelines. This is the only way to achieve durable peace in the Middle East.

On our own continent, the United Nations is duty-bound by the principles of the Charter to redouble efforts to ensure full realisation of the right of self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

Agenda 2030 recognises that sustainable development cannot be achieved without the full realisation of the rights of people living under colonial and foreign occupation.

We urge the holding of the independence referendum for the Saharawis without much further delay.

Mr President,

Let me conclude by thanking the Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, for the tremendous work he has done during his tenure. We have appreciated his presence at the Africa Union Summits and his visits to Africa as clear testimony to his commitment to and partnership with Africa.

We particularly applaud the Secretary-General's leadership in mobilising the entire United Nations system and indeed the international community to partner with Africa in stopping and rolling back the Ebola epidemic which claimed thousands of lives and undermined socio-economic development on our continent.

He has indeed been an indefatigable advocate for self-determination and a persistent champion for inclusive development, peace and building coalitions to deal with humanitarian and other crises. We wish him well in all his future endeavours.

I thank you.

Speech to the Zimbabwean Parliament (Oct. 6, 2016)

(text of the speech comes from [here](#))

Madame President of the Senate,
Mr. Speaker, Sir,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Comrades and Friends.

The Fourth Session of the 8th Parliament comes at a time when the process of realigning our laws to the Constitution is still work-in-progress. As such, several Bills will be brought for realignment by Parliament during this Session.

Bills to be brought before Parliament include the Constitutional Court Bill, the Rural District Council Bill, the Traditional Leaders Bill, the Prisons Bill and the Marriages Bill. The Coroner's Office Bill, which will pave way for the setting up of the Coroner's Office responsible for medico-legal investigations, will also be brought before this august House.

Madame President, Mr. Speaker, Sir,
The growing incidence of droughts in Zimbabwe presents a clarion call for all of us to build capacity to effectively cope with disasters related to climate change. Government has embarked on the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes throughout the country. This Session of Parliament is thus expected to ratify the Paris Agreement which allows the country to benefit from programmes on climate change. The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation, will also be tabled for ratification and accession.

Madame President, Mr. Speaker, Sir,
Our economy faces a number of challenges, which include the subdued aggregate demand, liquidity constraints, high interest rates, subdued foreign direct investment and limited fiscal space. This, too, is

further compounded by low revenue collections arising from depressed production, rampant revenue leakages, as well as poor mineral commodity prices on the global market. As a consequence, the economy registered a gradual decline, with the estimated growth rate for 2016 now projected at 1.2 per cent.

Government, in the context of the ZIM ASSET, is implementing a battery of initiatives to address the prevailing economic challenges. For instance, it has embarked on the Ease of Doing Business Reforms with the objective of improving the local business environment that stimulates investment inflows. In line with this thrust, a new Companies Act, which will significantly reduce registration delays and facilitate the smooth operation of new businesses, will be tabled for consideration by Parliament during this Session.

The Small Claims Court, the Commercial Court and the High Court Bills are going to be merged into the Judicial Laws Amendment (Ease of Settling Commercial and other Disputes) Bill 2016. Furthermore, the Zimbabwe Investment Authority Amendment Bill, which will provide legal underpinning to the One Stop Shop Investment Centre, will also be brought to this House during this Session.

The Diaspora Policy, which provides incentives to stimulate remittances and inbound investment by Zimbabweans outside the country, is now in place. Some amendments have been made to the Special Economic Zones Act after its recent passage in Parliament. The amendments, which will soon be tabled herein, pertain to some labour law provisions designed to protect workers in the Special Economic Zones. The legislation will boost the country's capacity to attract world-class investment, employment creation, technology transfer and innovation in strategic areas of the country's economy.

Madame President, Mr. Speaker, Sir,

This Session of Parliament will also consider the Movable Property Security Interest Bill, which seeks to increase access to credit for the majority of our emerging entrepreneurs. A Collateral Registry will be established to facilitate the use of movable property, including cars, livestock and furniture, as collateral for loans.

The Insolvency Bill and amendments to the Insurance Act, the Pensions and Provident Funds Act, and the Insurance and Pensions Commission Act will be tabled in this Parliament, as Government moves to incorporate international best practices and to also protect policyholders and members of pension funds. In addition, the Microfinance Act will be amended to incorporate the registration of deposit taking Microfinance Banks, in view of the evolving role of such institutions in the provision of credit and the mobilisation of savings. Funds have already been earmarked for the capitalization of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Corporation.

Madame President, Mr. Speaker, Sir,

It is pleasing to note that gold deliveries to Fidelity Printers and Refineries are on an upward trend. Aurex, the jewellery manufacturing firm owned by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, is now on a recovery path. Even though mining remains a leading source of export earnings for our economy, there is still need to maximize the sector's earnings through encouraging local value addition and beneficiation as well as the effective exploitation of mineral claims.

The long awaited Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill will thus be tabled before Parliament. As a matter of fact, the growth of mining is anchored on intensive exploration of mineral deposits. To facilitate increased mineral exploration, therefore, the Minerals Exploration and Marketing Corporation Bill, which will integrate the current Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe and the Mining Promotion Corporation, will be brought before this Parliament. Measures to plug mineral leakages outside the country and other underhand dealings that deny the country full enjoyment of rewards from its mineral endowment will be intensified.

Madame President, Mr. Speaker, Sir,

In the energy sector, the prime focus is on boosting local power generation capacity. To this end, I am pleased to note that the Kariba South Power Expansion Project is now about 60 per cent complete, with the first 150 MW unit expected to be ready by December 2017. The Hwange Power Station extension project is expected before the end of this year, thus paving way for commencement of the actual work in the first quarter of 2017. For this reason, Government has come up with the Dema Diesel Power Generating Plant. Work is also underway to establish a natural gas powered electricity generating plant and three 100 MW solar power generating plants. The Ministry is in the process of crafting, for presentation to Parliament, the Renewable Energy Policy and an Independent Power Producers (IPPs) Framework which should help to enhance private sector investment in the energy sector.

Madame President, Mr. Speaker, Sir,

Our manufacturing sector faces numerous challenges which militate against our capacity to compete in the regional and global market place. The challenges include dumping of cheap imports in our country, reliance on obsolete equipment, high cost of utilities and lack of access to cheaper lines of credit. The Bill for the establishment of the National Competitiveness Commission, which will coordinate the crafting and implementation of measures to improve the competitiveness of local companies, will be tabled in Parliament during this Session. The Bill will also repeal the National Incomes and Pricing Commission Act, which has outlived its purpose.

Madame President, Mr. Speaker, Sir,

The realization of Zimbabwe's immense potential to become a regional transport hub is steadily turning into a reality. The rehabilitation and dualisation of the Beitbridge-Harare-Chirundu Highway, is expected to commence soon. Parliament will hopefully expedite the necessary loan approvals and ratification processes for this supremely important national project to come to fruition. This Parliament will also consider a Bill on the proposed re-organisation of the Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe. This will facilitate establishment of joint ventures in the development of airports infrastructure in the country.

Madame President, Mr. Speaker, Sir,

The provision of amenities infrastructure should always be underpinned by sound planning. This Parliament will, therefore, receive for its consideration, the Regional Town and Country Planning Bill, which, among other provisions, will require that only qualified practitioners approve buildings and settlement plans. Enactment of the legislation will lead to a reduction in timeframes for the processing of planning applications. Environmental protection, as well as the provision of work space for small and medium enterprises, will become mandatory for all new settlements.

Madame President, Mr. Speaker, Sir,

The reform of the state enterprises remains a critical lever in the country's economic turnaround process. I note, with satisfaction, that ARDA is now on a firm recovery path, thanks to its joint venture partnership with some local private sector players.

Government recently approved a turnaround plan for the Cold Storage Company, as part of the programme to revive the country's beef industry. The Public Entities Corporate Governance Bill which will foster adherence to good corporate governance by public sector entities, regulate remuneration packages for Boards and senior members, as well as enhance transparency in the financial affairs of public entities, will be tabled in this august House during this Session. This Parliament will also be expected to consider the Public Sector Procurement Amendment Bill, which seeks to improve efficiency in the public procurement system through the decentralization of the procurement function to Ministries, State enterprises, parastatals, and local authorities.

Madame President, Mr. Speaker, Sir,

Parliament will also consider the updated and harmonised Occupational Safety and Health Bill, which establishes a tripartite Occupational Safety Council. A new Labour Amendment Bill, which seeks to harmonize the country's labour laws with the Constitution and relevant international conventions, will also be tabled in this august House.

Greater protection will be accorded to our young citizens through amendments to the Children's Act. The Public Health Bill, which seeks to repeal the current Public Health Act, which was enacted in 1924, will be tabled before this Parliament. Additionally, the Medical Aid Societies Bill which provides for the establishment of a regulatory authority to govern Medical Aid Societies in Zimbabwe will be brought for consideration by this Parliament.

Government is to launch the 2016-2026 STEM Policy Strategy to support Zimbabwe's quest for industrialisation and modernisation within the framework of the African Unions Agenda 2063. The Manpower Development Act will be amended, while the enabling statutes of all higher and tertiary education institutions will be reviewed to ensure greater focus on their core mandates.

Madame President, Mr. Speaker, Sir,

Government remains committed to youth development and economic empowerment. The Zimbabwe Youth Council Bill, which provides a legal framework for youth development activities, will therefore be brought to this House for debate. It will be recalled that I issued a Statement to clarify Government's position regarding the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Policy on 11th April, 2016. The relevant Act will thus be amended to bring it into consonance with the enunciated policy position.

Madame President, Mr. Speaker, Sir,

My Government is committed to the provision of a conducive working environment for the Legislature, in spite of the prevailing resource constraints. I am happy to inform this august House that, following approval of the designs for the New Parliament Building to be located in Mt Hampden, implementation of the project is now proceeding under a Chinese grant.

Madame President, Mr. Speaker, Sir,

Increasing reliance on the use of plastic money and other on-line applications, which characterizes the modern era, comes with the attendant rising risk of computer and cyber crimes. As a consequence of this lingering threat, Governments, the world over, are grappling with the threat of cyber crime. As

such, it is my fervent hope that this Fourth Session of Parliament will constructively and objectively debate the Computer Crime and Cyber Security Bill, the Electronic Transactions and Electronic Commerce Bill, and the Data Protection Bill, which will be tabled in this august House.

Madame President, Mr. Speaker, Sir,

In conclusion, I wish to remind you, Honourable Members of Parliament, of your sacrosanct duty to enact laws and build institutions that promote development, in an environment of peace. You not only have the duty to enact laws but to also respect and adhere to them, and indeed to our Constitution, in word, deed and spirit.

I now take this opportunity to declare the Fourth Session of the Eighth Parliament of Zimbabwe duly open.

I thank you.

Conclusion

There were many more speeches I wanted to include within this document, but there were a number of issues. For one, there were speeches that were weirdly translated when put into Google Translate, so those could not be used.¹ This meant that these speeches were not part of this document. As a result, speeches that were not fully translated were not included.² There were also excerpts of speeches for which I could not find the full text.³ Other speeches not included are the video of Mugabe [speaking](#) to White and Black settlers in 1982 and 2013 speeches [here](#) and [here](#). There were also videos of Mugabe [speaking](#) at the UN, [stand](#) of the Zanu-PF on homosexuality, and other articles.⁴

Other than this, comments on this are welcome as another edition of this publication could be issued if need be in the future.

1 Weird translations of [this speech](#) and [this speech](#).

2 Speeches not fully translated are [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

3 Speech excerpts from [2015](#), [2016](#), [the Telegraph](#), [here](#), and [elsewhere](#).

4 Other articles include the government's seemingly [anti-drug stand](#) and how they said that they are [willing to work](#) with the new US administration.